Finally, Gloria's accuser gets to testify at Senate

STORY ON PAGE A 2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2001 ★ 58 PAGES 5 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 361 ₱15

PUMAPATOL KASI KAYO MASKI KANINO!

'Why make 'patol' to these people?'

By D. Pazzibugan

AS SHE berated the media, President Macapagal-Arroyo sounded less presidential as she slipped into her *colegiala* English.

"Frankly, I don't

WHY/ A18

Money woes push up suicide rates in Asia

ECONOMIC problems in Asia caused by a recession in the United States are expected to push up suicide rates in the region to even more worrying levels, a senior World Health Organization (WHO) official warned on Tuesday.

A key factor forcing people to take their lives is unemployment caused by the economic slowdown, Dr. Shigeru Omi, WHO director for the Western Pacific region, told a forum organized

MONEY/ A14

GMA to Serge: Don't worry about my face

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan,
Cynthia D. Balana and Carlito Pablo

"SINCE when was he ever concerned about my face?"

President Macapagal-Arroyo is amused at the claim of Sen. Sergio Osmeña III that she would lose face if he revealed what he knew about Malacañang's supposed involvement in a recent ransom payment to the Abu Sayyaf.

The President laughingly challenged Osmeña, whom she endorsed in the May senatorial election, to name names in response to what Osmeña said on Tuesday.

"I appreciate his being concerned about my face but . . . I think I would rather know than keep my face because the national government has a no-ransom policy."

Osmeña yesterday told reporters that he would face any Senate inquiry to name some Malacañang officials who ostensibly brokered the delivery of the P17-million ransom in exchange for the release of Abu Sayyaf captive Reghis Romero and two others in June.

But Osmeña stressed that he would name only some names, and not all, in an executive session of the Senate scheduled on Dec. 17.

Asked why, he replied that like reporters, he had the right to protect some of his sources as a senator. He insisted that it was the President who should name names because she knew about the matter despite her administration's no-ransom policy.

"I am not after the Abu Sayyaf ransom but after our poor soldiers," Osmeña said.

He said the soldiers might have been misled by their superiors during the so-called rescue of Romero, which led to the death of some of them.

But the President said she believed her military officials over Osmeña, who had claimed that the

GMA/ A18

THE BEAUTY and the beast share a few laughs during the President's inspection of the SWAG (Special Warfare Group) training on Wednesday at the Sangley Point naval base, Cavite City. EDWIN BACASMAS

Kidnap leader: Gov't gave me ₱5M for priest

By Hernan P. dela Cruz
and Edwin O. Fernandez
PDI Mindanao Bureau

PAGADIAN CITY—After Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, it's now a kidnap gang leader's turn to squeal on Malacañang's alleged brokering of ransom for the release of hostages seized by bandits in Mindanao.

Faizal Marohombsar, one of the leaders of the Pentagon kidnap gang, claimed that he was tasked by Malacañang with negotiating for the release of Italian priest Giuseppe Pierantoni because he knew the kidnappers.

He said he was given P5 million by government officials to secure Pierantoni's freedom. He said he could not disclose the names of the officials who handed him the money.

"That's confidential. The money is now in my custody and I am just waiting for a safe conduct pass so that I can easily move," Marohombsar told the Inquirer by phone yesterday.

Heavily armed men grabbed the 44-year-old Italian priest on Oct. 17 in Dimataling, Zamboanga del Sur. According to the military, Marohombsar was behind the abduction, but he said it was another gang, led by a certain Macaumao.

Marohombsar, who was responsible for abducting two Chinese engineers working at a government project in North Cotabato a few months ago, said the P5-million ransom was only coursed through Malacañang.

The money, he said, came from people close to the kidnapped priest. "*Marami sa kanila mga*

KIDNAP/ A18

GMA wants Nur on US list of int'l terrorists

By Dona Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is determined to have Nur Misuari known to the world as a "terrorist."

Ms Macapagal yesterday said her administration would ask the United States to include Misuari in its list of international terrorists because of his links to the Abu Sayyaf Group.

"We will be officially notifying the US that we have information that Nur Misuari has links (with the Abu Sayyaf)," Ms Macapagal told reporters.

The Abu Sayyaf, which has been linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, is on a US list of terrorist organizations. The group claims to be fighting for an independent Islamic state, but the Philippine government calls it a bandit gang.

Ms Macapagal recalled US President George W. Bush's declaration that the United States would consider terrorists those who deal with terrorist groups.

"So by that token (Misuari) is a terrorist," Ms Macapagal said.

Misuari, who led the MNLF since the early 1970s, was ousted as chair by other leaders earlier this year, claiming he mismanaged the regional government and the MNLF.

He was arrested in Malaysian waters on Nov. 24, several days after the government filed rebellion charges against him for leading an attack on an Army base in Jolo, Sulu.

Military officials said days before the attack, Misuari, former governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), allegedly met with Abu Sayyaf leaders.

They said Abu Sayyaf gunmen participated in the Nov. 19 attack on the Army

GMA WANTS/ A

Ador may lose gov't protection for hacking

By Michael Lim Ubac

WHISTLE-BLOWER Angelo "Ador" Mawanay is in danger of being booted out of the Witness Protection Program of the Department of Justice.

"If it is determined that Mr. Mawanay actually hacked into computer files to get at the records of (Sen. Panfilo) Lacson's alleged dollar deposits abroad, that may be ground for termination of coverage," WPP director Leo B. Dacera told reporters yesterday.

Computer hacking is a crime under the country's e-commerce law enacted last year, Dacera pointed out.

However, Dacera said his office would await formal charges against Mawanay, a former civilian agent of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

"We will ask the complainant, if there is (one), to file a complaint or submit documents to prove the charges," he said. "If a crime has been committed, then what the law provides is (termination of the WPP coverage)."

Asked if Mawanay had admitted the crime to him, Dacera said: "Not yet. We'll have to ask him if it is true."

ADOR/ A18

LOSING WAR ON HUNGER: The firefight in Afghanistan is being won but refugee camps remain veritable war zones, where the homeless and the hungry desperately grab their rations of rice and sugar. GETTY IMAGES

SUICIDE BOMBINGS

1 dead, 3 hurt in another attack

JERUSALEM—A Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up in central Jerusalem on Wednesday, wounding three other people when his bomb exploded prematurely outside a hotel, Israeli police said.

The attack followed an Israeli pledge to continue air strikes on Palestinian security installations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in response to the deaths of 25 people in the worst wave of suicide bombings in Israel in years.

A device strapped to the bomber's body exploded as he crossed the road outside what used to be the Hilton Hotel, sending parts of his body and nails and shrapnel flying but causing few casualties and little other damage.

"A terrorist killed himself when he was crossing the road . . . a powerful bomb which was strapped to his body blew up," Jerusalem police chief Miki Levi told Israel Radio.

"Nails and shrapnel flew in all directions. He was blown completely apart," he said.

Levi said the bomber had probably intended to blow himself up in a crowded place, but the bomb exploded prematurely.

Police said three people standing at a bus stop nearby were slightly hurt by flying glass. The bomber's flesh and clothing lay scattered across the road after police sealed off the area and started

1DEAD/ A15

Farmers split over coco levy settlement

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

TWO GROUPS of coconut farmers that worked together for the recovery of coconut levy funds during the Estrada administration have been split over a proposed compromise settlement brokered by the private publicist of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The 46-member Alyansa ng mga Kilusang Magsasaka (Kilos-Saka) led by the Coconut Industry Reform Movement (COIR) is against any form of settlement outside the courts while the Pambansang Koalisyon ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (PKSMMN), made up of 37 coconut farmers' groups, supports the settlement.

Both camps held separate press conferences at the same time yesterday in adjoining restaurants at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City and attacked each other.

COIR was at the Max's restaurant and PKSMMN was at the Bacolod Chicken, prompting reporters to partake of fried and grilled chicken as they covered both events.

"It's like a feast on chicken here," quipped a radio reporter who left half of his plate at Max's untouched. "*Meron pa sa kabila,*" he said.

Joey Faustino, COIR executive director, expressed concern that the media would play up the division of coconut farmers instead of focusing on the recovery of the P130 billion in coco levy funds collected from coconut farmers from 1971 to 1982.

"We ourselves don't want this to happen because we should not be going against each other," Faustino said.

"The real enemies are Cojuangco

FARMERS/ A14

MAGPAKITA KAYA YAN?

Gloria accuser gets Senate date

By Rocky Nazareno

SEN. Joker Arroyo has finally set for tomorrow a hearing on the alleged telecommunications scam in which businessman Pacifico Marcelo, who has accused President Macapagal-Arroyo of trying to wrest control of his telecoms franchise firm, is expected to testify.

Arroyo, the blue ribbon committee chair, said he had "gone out of his way" to make arrangements for the use of the Senate session hall for the hearing which starts at 10 a.m.

But in a telephone call to the Inquirer, Marcelo said he has yet to be formally notified about the hearing.

Marcelo also complained that he has not been given a "safe conduct pass" for his Senate appearance.

Without the pass, Marcelo fears that he may be arrested by immigration agents who earlier sought to "invite" him for questioning because of doubts about his citizenship.

"What is the assurance of my safety? I can be picked up anytime after my testimony," he said.

'Useless talk'

Arroyo has described as "useless talk" the verbal attacks he has been getting from Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel and Sen. Edgardo Angara who have criticized him for the delay in hearing Marcelo's testimony.

In his affidavit submitted to the committee last week, Marcelo said Ms Macapagal had allegedly demanded 51 percent ownership of his Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc. (PCCI) in exchange for recalling the veto she issued against the PCCI franchise.

"I really doubt the sincerity of the minority about their alleged desire to hear Marcelo's testimony," Arroyo said.

Arroyo earlier said the blue ribbon committee would hear Marcelo's testimony only after it had completed investigations on the coco levy fund controversy, the alleged foreign bank accounts of Sen. Panfilo Lacson and the Naia Terminal 3 controversy.

Summoned

But the minority bloc demanded that Marcelo's testimony be heard earlier.

To make sure that Marcelo would appear in tomorrow's hearing, Arroyo has asked Angara himself to inform the witness that he was being summoned.

"This time, the committee will inform him through Senator Angara, the de facto minority leader, since the minority has been cradling anyway their new herald since he surfaced," Arroyo said.

Marcelo was summoned to three previous hearings by the committee on the PCCI controversy but he did not make an appearance.

Angara demurred, however, saying he had "nothing to do with Mr. Marcelo and do not know his whereabouts."

"You are old enough to know that the duty of the committee is to notify the witness and not through me," Angara told Arroyo. *With a report from Carlito Pablo*

No funds for youth elections next May

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE COMMISSION on Elections yesterday urged the government to use part of the budget of the local government units to finance the holding of the Sangguniang Kabataan elections next May.

Comelec executive secretary Mamasapunod Aguam suggested that the budget department take a 10 percent cut from the LGUs' P1 billion internal revenue allotments for the P4 million needed for the SK polls.

Aguam said there was a "zero budget" for the youth elections slated for May 6, even as the Comelec starts the registration of voters aged 15 to 18 on Monday.

The registration will run from Dec. 10 to 26.

The names of registered voters aged 18 to 21 will simply be copied from the Comelec's Certified Voters List.

There are six million voters falling within the 15 to 18 age group, while there is an ongoing special registration for all unregistered Filipino citizens, said Comelec information officer Mila Desamito.

But National Youth Commission member Paulo Benigno Aquino IV considered the date that the Comelec had set for the registration as "too soon."

He warned information might not reach voters in far-flung areas before the end of the month.

"We want to avoid another failure of registration," Aquino said in a statement. "We want to ensure maximum participation of the youth because this is primarily a youth undertaking."

The barangay elections, set for May 13, is another concern of the Comelec as it believes the P900-million budget approved by Congress would not be enough for the holding of the polls.

The Comelec has asked for P3.078 billion, but the budget department and the Cabinet slashed it to P900 million because of the ballooning deficit.

There are more than 140,000 barangays in the country, elections to which had been postponed because of financing problems.

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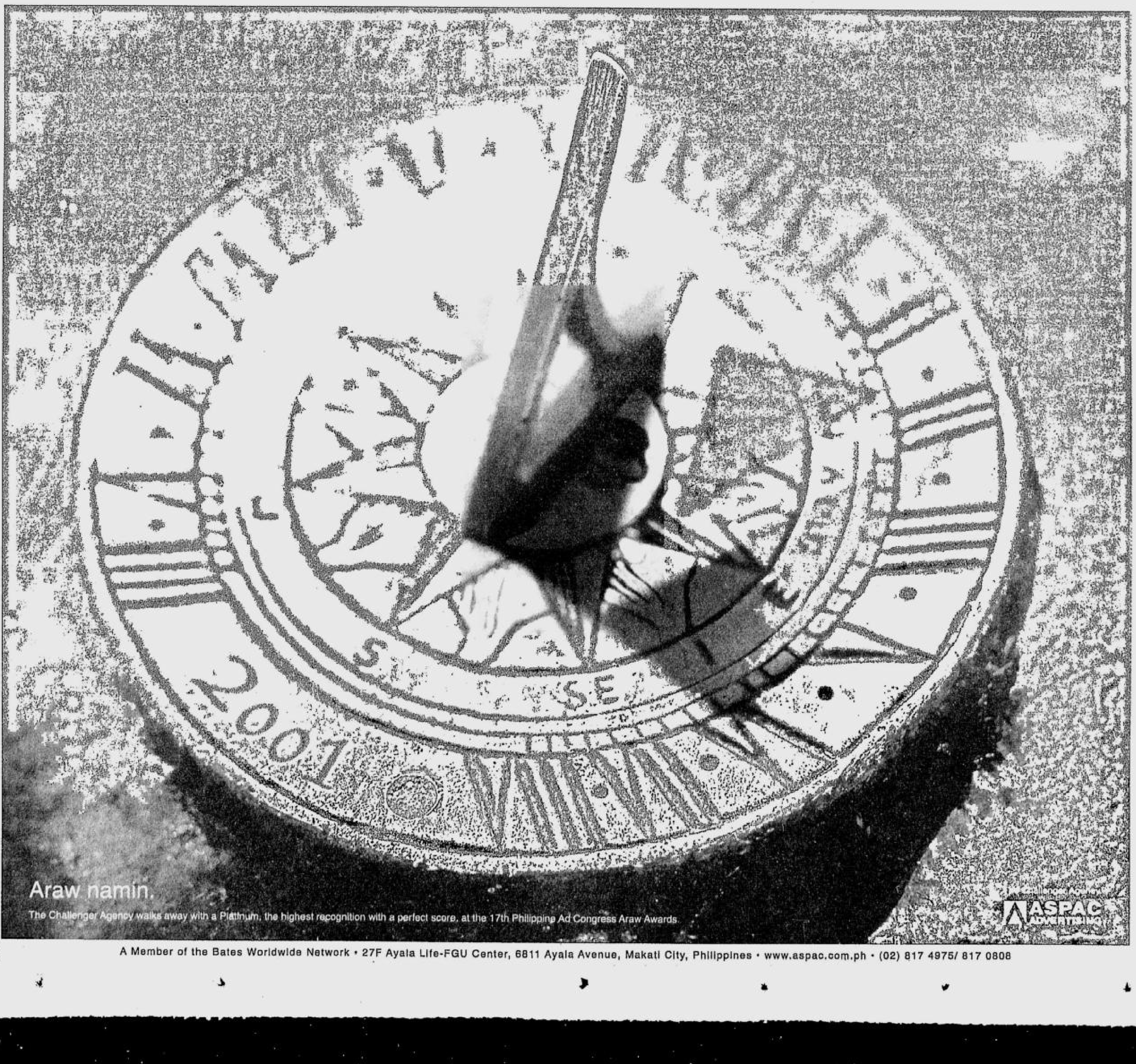
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Roxas, Gordon, Braganza confirmed

By C. Balana

THE COMMISSION of Appointments yesterday confirmed the appointment of three Cabinet members—Richard Gordon of tourism, Manuel "Mar" Roxas of trade and industry and Hernani Braganza of agrarian reform.

The three Cabinet members breezed through the plenary session of the bicameral commission and thus joined four other Cabinet members already in the confirmed list—Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong, Education Secretary Raul Roco and Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman.

Gordon and Braganza were endorsed by committees on tourism and on agrarian reform, respectively, on Tuesday while Roxas was endorsed by the committee on trade and industry earlier yesterday.

Also confirmed by the commission were the promotion of 34 military officers led by Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, chief of the Southern Command (Southcom).

While Roxas, Gordon and Braganza went through the confirmation hearings virtually without hitch, fireworks are expected when it's time for Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, who will need all the support pledged to him by various transport groups and cooperatives.

A press statement from the Department of Transportation and Communication said 29 transport service cooperatives had called for the confirmation of Alvarez, saying he has the expertise and experience to formulate and implement reforms in the transport sector.

The PKKP Tertiary Transport Cooperative headed by Vicente Mallari, PKKP president for Pampanga and Tarlac, said Alvarez's introduction of the "OKS na OKS" project has reduced red tape and expedited the delivery of services to transport operators.

Separate endorsements were received from other transport cooperatives from Pampanga, Tarlac and Bulacan.

Alvarez is expecting opposition from the MIAA-Naia Association of Service Operators (Maso) over the contract to build Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia 3).

Maso claims that Alvarez, who was among the congressman that investigated the Naia 3 contract, had interests in the firm that won a subcontract from Naia 3 builder Piatco and had filed plunder charges against him. Alvarez had denied the allegation.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS
PASAY CITY

ANNOUNCEMENT

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has submitted to the Commission on Appointments (C.A.) for confirmation the *ad interim* appointment of **Regina Irene P. Sarmiento** as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Cuba with concurrent jurisdiction over Dominican Republic, with the rank of Chief of Mission, Class II in the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The public may submit any information, written report or sworn complaints or oppositions in thirty (30) copies on the above appointment to the CA Secretariat, 6th Floor, PNB Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, Metro Manila.

For the schedule of the public hearings, the CA Secretariat can be reached through telephone numbers 551-7532, 831-0893, 831-1824 and 834-2706.

05 December 2001.

(Sgd.) ARTURO L. TIU
Secretary

Solon stirs up row over canceled US visa

By C. Avendaño

A MEMBER of Congress has vented his ire on the United States after his valid 10-year visa to that country was canceled for no apparent reason.

Negros Occidental Rep. Jose Lozada, a diplomat-turned-politician, said in a privileged speech yesterday that "if they (embassy officials) could do this to me, they could do it to any ordinary Filipino."

Lozada, who chairs the House committee on foreign affairs, said he found out only the other day that the US Embassy had canceled his US visa.

He said he had asked the American embassy in October to transfer his valid US visa from his old passport to his new one because the page holding the visa had come loose.

He said he was also advised to do this by a US immigration official during his last visit to that country in September.

Lozada said that instead of granting his request, the US canceled his visa "without prejudice."

Lozada, who was in the diplomatic service for 21 years and was a presidential adviser on foreign affairs in the Ramos administration, said that in diplomatic parlance "without prejudice" means nothing.

He said a visa is usually canceled when the person holding it is considered "persona non grata" by the issuing country.

He said that in addition, the US Embassy had asked him for more supporting documents when he made his request for the visa transfer—such as a certificate of employment, credit card billings, bank passbooks, original land titles and recent pay slips.

He said it appears this was "deliberately" done to him because his passport was with the embassy more than a month, enough time for US officials to check his records.

"We sympathized with you when the US was bombed," he said in his speech, referring to the immediate Philippine response to the Sept.11 terrorist acts against the US.

He then urged his colleagues to press President Macapagal-Arroyo into rejecting Washington's nominee to be its new ambassador here, "unless he understands the culture, traditions and ways of the Filipinos."

The new US ambassador, Francis Joseph Ricciardone Jr., has yet to arrive. The US Embassy here is currently headed by charge d' affaires Robert Fittz.

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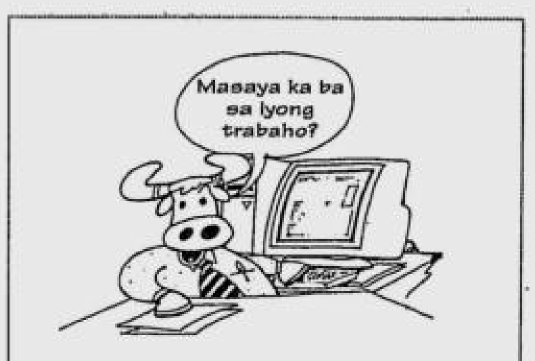
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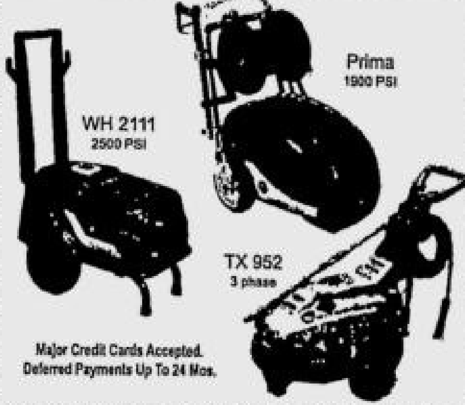

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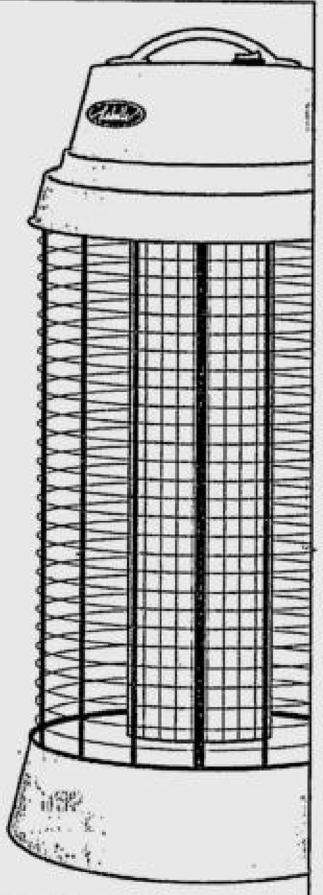

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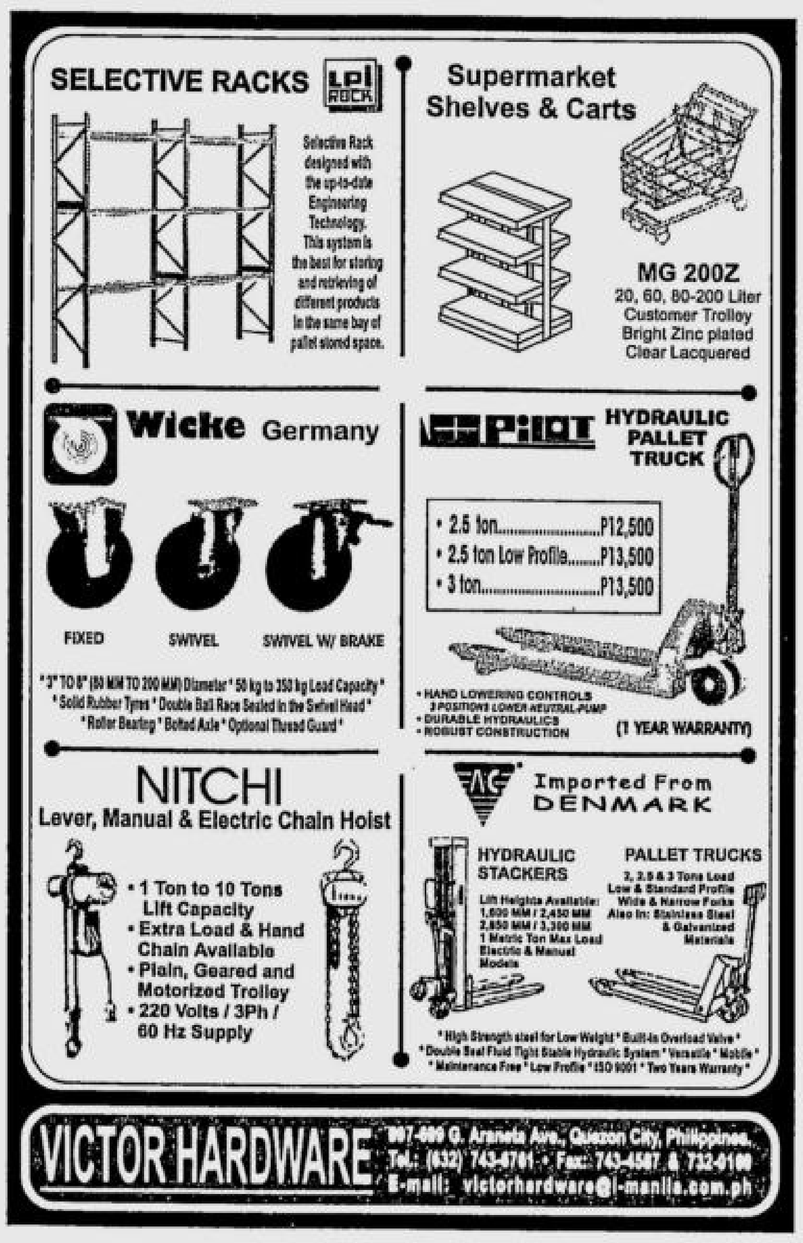

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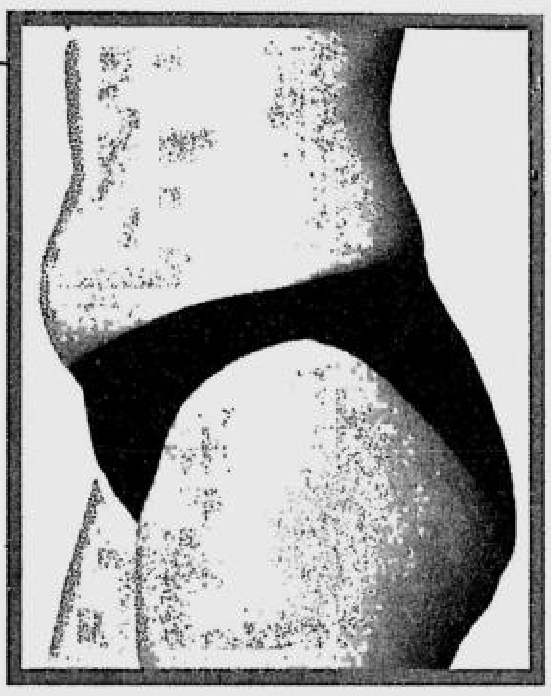

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ERAP PLUNDER TRIAL

Ex-justice gets a stern scolding

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

SERAFIN Cuevas, one of the lawyers of ousted President Joseph Estrada, got a scolding from Sandiganbayan magistrates yesterday for acting as if he was still a Supreme Court justice in a tense exchange at yesterday's hearing on the jailed leader's plunder trial.

Cuevas, who was Estrada's justice secretary, raised the hackles of 3rd Division Justice Teresita Leonardo de Castro for complaining about the way in which the bench handed down open court rulings.

"You have forgotten that you are appearing for the accused as a counsel and not as a justice of the Supreme Court. We have been very accommodating to you," said De Castro, who presided in place of the division chair, Justice Anacleto Badoy, who has gone on indefinite leave.

"If you do not want to shed your high position, then you should not appear as a counsel," De Castro told Cuevas.

The 69-year-old Badoy, who has been on leave since Monday, was suffering from asthma, stress and high blood pressure and had requested formal leave, his daughter and secretary Christine Sanchez told reporters.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said the sidelining of Badoy would not affect the plunder case as someone else was sitting in for him.

But Desierto said there could be a problem if Badoy's condition does not improve over time and the court fails to appoint a long-term replacement.

The Estrada trial went ahead as scheduled yesterday with De Castro sitting in for Badoy on a temporary basis for the second straight day.

On the witness stand was Federico Pascual, the former head of the Government Service Insurance System and the third of 35 witnesses the government intends to present to prove allegations that Estrada plundered a personal fortune of $80 million.

CUEVAS

The heated exchange between Cuevas and De Castro occurred after the court prevented another defense counsel, Jose Flaminiano, from asking Pascual how he was instructed by his lawyer in executing his Feb. 7 affidavit.

Prosecutors objected, saying the communication between Pascual and his lawyer should be considered privileged. Justice Nicodemo Ferrer sided with the prosecutors.

Coming in from the break, Cuevas questioned why it was Ferrer, and not the acting chair, who issued the ruling.

De Castro argued that the matter of who should give a ruling was an "internal matter" among the justices.

Both sides agreed to end the grilling of Pascual.

Pascual and Carlos Arellano, the former chair of the Social Security System, both testified that they were "pressured" by Estrada to buy large blocs of gaming firm Belle Corp. shares, and they complied with this "instruction" despite their personal reservations.

Another cause of tension occurred outside the courtroom as agents of the National Bureau of Investigation arrived to start grilling seven staffers of Badoy over the alleged theft of a draft resolution on the Estrada case.

The alleged document theft has put Badoy on the spot particularly after he gave a controversial TV interview about it last week, using an ambulance to get the GMA Network.

The SC court on Tuesday asked Badoy to explain in five days why he should not be penalized for such apparent misconduct as a ranking judicial officer.

Badoy's daughter and secretary Christine Marie Sanchez told reporters that her father only received the order only yesterday morning, at the UERM hospital where he has been confined.

Find ₱8-B AFP fund, Palace told

BY CYNTHIA D. BALANA

MALACAÑANG should find the P8-billion missing fund intended for the modernization program of the Armed Forces of the Philippines during the Ramos administration.

The statement came from Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta after Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes admitted during a recent budget hearing in the Senate that the share of the AFP from the sale of government property in Fort Bonifacio can no longer be accounted for.

Oreta said the missing amount smacks of fund juggling which is illegal.

The P8 billion share of the AFP from the P29-billion sale of the military camp was to have been earmarked for the stalled AFP modernization program.

Reyes said the money could have gone to the general fund and "got lost in the black hole."

Bismillah Hirrahman Nirrahim
(In the Name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful)

Life goes on, "don't worry & be happy"...

Assalamu Alaikum,
Peace Of God Be With You,
Ang Kapayapaan Ng Diyos Ay Mapasa Inyo

As we continue our observance of the Holy Month of RAMADHAN, we also join the **Reverend Archbishop of Cotabato Orlando B. Quevedo**, Allah Bless him, in his call for CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING as we also celebrate the **Week of Peace in Mindanao**.

We first of all Praise God Almighty, Alhamdullilah, that the Nov. 26 ARMM elections turned out to be very peaceful. Except for MNLF-related incidents in Sulu and Zamboanga, Election Day was almost WITHOUT any bloodshed despite earlier predictions to the contrary, and very much unlike the past elections. This alone is reason enough to rejoice and count God's Blessings.

To all those who supported us, believed and invested their faith in us, MARAMING, MARAMING, MARAMING SALAMAT PO! Be reassured that we remain firm in our commitment to humbly be of help to the government, in the pursuit of lasting peace through sustainable economic development. This we do either in our private capacities or Insh-Allah, God Willing, as your new leaders in the ARMM.

Our having decided to run for ARMM Governor and Vice-Governor, respectively was in response to the clamor from various sectors that we lend ourselves to the development of the AUTONOMOUS Muslim Region. While there was widespread disagreement about the so-called government's "earlier commitment" to the MNLF and/or OIC, we sincerely believed that the paramount concern was to have a free and honest election.

Undeniable cases of BLATANT fraud and other UNPRECEDENTED election irregularities were reported. NAMFREL itself had strongly asked the COMELEC to suspend canvassing of the votes.
All of us participants in this election, whether as Candidates, Voters, Board of Election Inspectors (yes, including our heroic teachers), Watchers, Local Leaders, Peace-keeping units, Observers like Media, know the Truth. **In fact, most of us had witnessed it**. Those who committed the electoral FRAUD, either as masterminds or executors will have to deal with this truth, at least for sure, in the inescapable arena called CONSCIENCE.

To our dear brothers who had committed the fraud, we had forgiven you, and may the Merciful Allah also forgive you. Do not forget that it is not necessarily us who were victimized. Rather, it is the well-meaning constituencies in ARMM whose rights were grossly disregarded. It is sad and it hurts, that in the pitfalls of "trapo politics", our observance of the Holy Month was violated. As you may recall, our Ulamas, the Compassionate Allah Bless them, had already advised us in their Fatwa last month, that we be guided strictly by Islamic values in the conduct of the election but still, corrupted politics prevailed. Plus, the INTEGRITY of the electoral process and worse, the RESULTS THEMSELVES, are TAINTED with DOUBTS.

To the national officials who practically "twisted the arms" of our local leaders-you caused a good number of these leaders who are our dear relatives and supporters to, at the last hour, compromise their loyalty to us, their TRULY FAVORED bets. ***How we wished you did not have to go that far...***

To Fr. Jun Mercado and the others who tried their best to put up a resistance to the fraud, ***God Bless and Mabuhay Po Kayo!*** Yes, as reported in media, you are not alone in saying that this past election was "definitely peaceful but being free and honest is an entirely different story."

To the youth in ARMM, "Hope Springs Eternal". During the Youth Consultative Assembly at Mindanao State University in Marawi City three weeks ago, your leaders clamored for New Politics. Let us keep the faith, your dreams will definitely come true, Insha-Allah, in the Perfect Timing of God Almighty. As taught by the Wise Men of history, ***"...to everything there is a season..."***

AUTONOMY is our chance to gain self-respect, and the last election was our Golden Opportunity. Our national leaders, along with other concerned sectors of society were asked beforehand NOT to UNDULY intervene in the ARMM elections. In fact, we pleaded with them to extend all the help possible in order that the Muslim Region be given a chance to attain POLITICAL MATURITY which is an INDISPENSABLE FIRST STEP to peace and progress in ARMM.

Yet, even until Election Day, higher ranking officials of the administration met with local leaders and reportedly gave strict instructions to "DELIVER the votes for administration candidates". Nothing necessarily wrong perhaps with these "marching orders", except that in compliance therein the votes were indeed "delivered" but at the price of committing utmost dishonor to a very important electoral process. And ironically yet, utilizing the very constitutional guardians for clean and honest elections. Those who aspired for relatively clean and fair elections could only say...GRABE!

In order NOT to betray the faith of those who believed in us, we shall still file the pertinent Complaints as provided for by law. This we shall do, NOT to deter us from proceeding with our normal lives but rather, in order to honor the Truth. We are told that as experience abundantly shows, it normally takes YEARS, in fact a FULL TERM, before the Complaint or Protest gets to be resolved. That will be another story, we leave that to the Absolute Domain of Time, and to the Guidance of the Almighty.

We join those who are PEACEFULLY clamoring for an IMPARTIAL investigation into the reported irregularities, to right the wrong and in order that we may be better guided in the conduct of future elections.

I enjoin our supporters and everyone concerned, NOT to be distracted by these issues. Let us NOW go back to our pre-election lives. Also let us NOT lose faith in the institutions of government no matter how disappointed we may be in some of its officials. Election is never the end but rather, only a broader means of helping to improve people's lives through effective governance.

As you are reading this, our dear brothers **Dr. Hussin** and **Mr. Mutilan**, Allah Bless them, are already leading irreversibly. Barring unforeseen obstacles, they shall be proclaimed very soon. **At this stage, it is of greater importance that we support our emerging Regional Governor and his team. Their election is borne out of a Duly Constituted Electoral Process we all collectively participated in. They are tasked in addressing the numerous problems of our region, they cannot fail, Insha-Allah.**

And lastly, let us always be law-abiding citizens, for what we do today influences the future of our CHILDREN, the future LEADERS for development. Our FAILURE to do right could lead them to still be leaders, but in LAWLESSNESS as history has repeatedly been showing us.

To our brothers in the Christendom, we join you in celebrating the spirit of Christmas Season, and in anticipating the good tidings of the coming year.

Wassalamu Alaikum, the Blessings of God Be Upon us always.

DATU IBRAHIM "TOTO" PAGLAS III

‘PROPERTY AND MONEY’

NBI has new lead in Nida slay

**BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA
AND TJ BURGONIO**

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation has a new lead in the Nida Blanca murder case and will reinvestigate those who were close to the late actress.

This after former actress Gina Pareño went to the NBI offices on Tuesday to give a statement in the stymied investigation.

"She (Pareño) was one of the friends of Nida Blanca. We asked for her insights so that we could sort out the pieces of this puzzle," said NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco yesterday afternoon.

Wycoco said the bureau was still looking at a quarrel over "properties and money" as the most likely motive for Blanca's killing.

He noted that Pareño was a mutual friend of Blanca's and the late Bong Eraña, a former child actress who allegedly lent money at casinos.

Eraña died one week before Blanca was killed and it was prayers for her at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park that Blanca was slated to attend on the night she was killed. Eraña reportedly died of cancer.

Possible motive

Ricardo Diaz, spokesperson for the investigation, said the information Pareño gave was about "a possible motive" for the killing, which he described as a long shot.

However, Wycoco said, Pareño was to continue giving her statement today, adding that as it was, her statement "could not stand on its own."

"We are looking at a totally new motive. But this may be for the long haul. There is nothing clear for now," Diaz said.

He said the bureau is in the process of gathering new evidence that it had not taken "during the first investigation."

Wycoco said his men have lifted a new set of fingerprints from Blanca's Nissan sedan in which her bloodied body was found.

Comedienne Matutina was also seen at the NBI yesterday afternoon but bureau metro chief Edmund Arugay denied she was there for the Blanca case.

Another actress who paid a surprise visit to police at the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group office in Camp Crame, Quezon City, yesterday was Annabelle Rama.

Rama, however, was quick to explain to the media that her morning visit to the office of CIDG head Director Nestorio Gualberto was "personal" and had nothing to do with the probe into the murder of Blanca, who was her close friend.

She said she was there to file a complaint against a woman who had swindled her of P3 million worth of jewelry.

She declined to identify the woman pending the filing of charges.

"I came here because of a personal problem," she told reporters in an ambush interview. Investigators of Task Force Marsha, who asked not to be named, confirmed her claim.

Rama, one of the few celebrities who rushed to the scene when Blanca's body was found, said she was not surprised by Pareño's appearance at the NBI.

"I myself have been summoned by the NBI and the CIDG (in connection with Blanca's case)," she said.

Asked what she thought of the ongoing probe into the murder of her friend, Rama said, "I'm leaving it all up to the NBI and the police. Anyway, they're good at it."

Docs hold confab on drug abuse today

JUSTICE Secretary Hernando Perez will be the guest of honor and keynote speaker at the 11th national convention of the Philippine Association of Dangerous Drugs Board-Accredited Physicians, Inc. (PADDBAPI) at the Manila Hotel today.

The convention is from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Dr. Prudie S. de Baybay, PADDBAPI president, said this year's convention is chaired by Dr. Manolita Macasero. This year's theme is: "Treatment and Rehabilitation of Drug Dependents: What's New?"

Barros, 73

ARSENIO "Arsing" B. Barros, a World War II veteran and a retired contact officer of the Philippine Veterans Administration office in Zamboanga City, died on Dec. 2. He was 73.

He is survived by his wife, Meding, children Carmelita, Rosario and Edgar, Ariel and Rebecca, Raquel and Erick, Albert and Antoinette, Alvin and Erlene, Allan and Susan, Alex and Norminda, Carina and Alan; sister Visitacion; brothers Roberto, Francisco, Jose, Ricardo, Antonio, Valeriano and Victor; and grandchildren.

His remains lie at the Chapel L of La Merced Funeral Homes Camino Nuevo, Zamboanga City.

Interment will be at the Forest Lake Memorial Park Tumaga, Zamboanga City on Saturday after the Holy Mass.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

**Thursday, December 6, 2001
1st Week of Advent**

1st Reading: **Is 26:1-6**
Gospel: **Mt 7:21, 24-27**

Jesus said to his disciples, "Not everyone who says to me: Lord! Lord! will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my heavenly Father.

"So, then, anyone who hears these words of mine and acts accordingly is like a wise man, who built his house on rock. The rain poured, the rivers flooded, and the wind blew and struck that house, but it did not collapse because it was built on rock. But anyone who hears these words of mine and does not act accordingly, is like a fool who built his house on sand. The rain poured, the rivers flooded, and the wind blew and struck that house; it collapsed, and what a terrible fall that was!"

Commentary

Sometimes we picture hope as a feminine figure, dejected, helpless and pallid. This image has very little to do with hope. In reality, hope is the expression of an enormous and vital strength. We have to be strong to be able to hope. Especially when the storm rages and the winds blow with force. When everyone is riding on the ship of easy success, in search of greater benefits and competitiveness it becomes more difficult to await the coming of the kingdom and live in accordance with that hope, in solidarity with those left at the sideways, and being close to the helpless and the marginalized.

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EDITORIALS

Deadly candor

IF Sen. Sergio Osmeña thinks he is doing the nation a favor by spilling the beans on the Reghis Romero abduction last summer, he is dead wrong. If he thinks he is scoring points against the administration by exposing what has been common knowledge all along—that the government's no-ransom policy on terrorism and kidnapping is honored more in the breach than in the observance—then he should check the political score board. If he is winning points, it is points that merely increase doubts about his political sanity, if not his personal morality.

The doubts are justified. How could a senator assist in an arrangement that is a clear violation of the government's "no negotiation, no ransom" policy? How could he sit contentedly in a chamber that churns out laws when he could not even follow cut-and-dried policies to stem, not abet, kidnapping?

It may be that Osmeña thinks he merely spoke in utter candor about last summer's abductions at the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan, in which the Abu Sayyaf seized businessmen Romero and a host of vacationing foreigners and members of the upper set. But he should at least realize that candor in politics is a double-edged sword.

Of course, the senator is the smoking-gun evidence that Romero paid ransom to obtain his release. He said that certain persons with apparent Malacañang backing had solicited his help to deliver the ransom money—P17 million—to the kidnappers. The senator has not exactly detailed his participation in the negotiation and payment. But he has pandered to the media mob by implying the military had a cut in the ransom money.

The senator too does not explain why his help was asked. Did he hold sufficient sway over the Abu Sayyaf that he could deliver the goods despite the dangers? Why was a Visayan lawmaker involved, and not somebody from Mindanao? The senator does not care to explain.

Just the same, he mercilessly swings his wrecking ball at the government's policy. He appears impervious to the gravity of his remarks and acts. He does not seem to realize that he had hastened the payment of ransom to the kidnappers. In effect, he had added gas to the merry cottage industry of terrorism for profit.

Betrayal

WORSE, Senator Osmeña does not seem to realize that he has aided Romero in committing perjury and throwing mud at the sacrosanct institution where he (Osmeña) enjoys membership. Osmeña did not raise a protest when Romero presumably lied through his teeth a few months ago to deny he had ever paid ransom to his captors during congressional hearings. He was an accomplice in the betrayal of the truth.

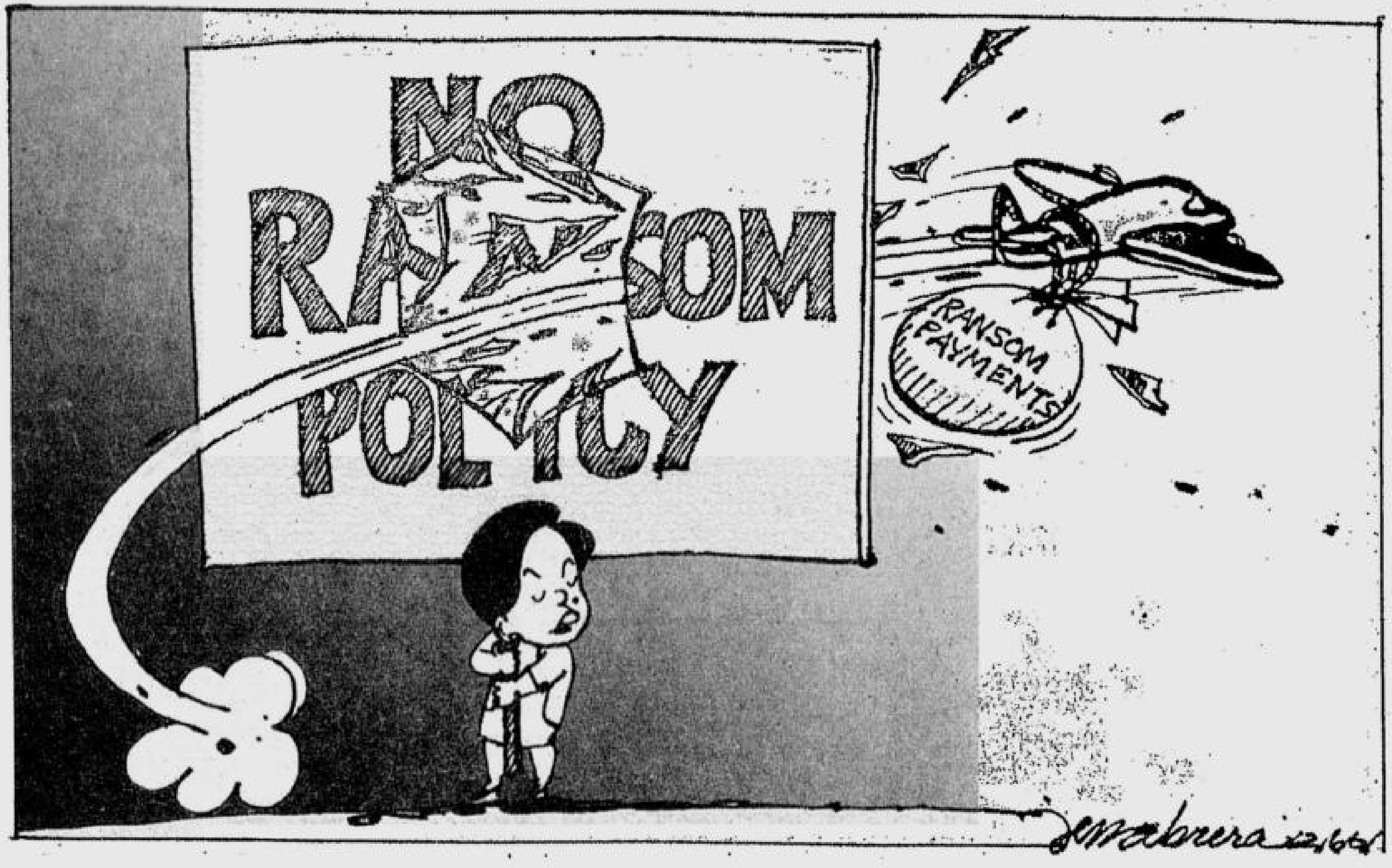
If Romero had indeed paid his way to freedom, it would have been no big deal to the public. After all, he had the millions and the most human of reasons to pay his way out: his life was in jeopardy.

But what about the senator? When Romero was blissfully lying under oath during the Senate hearing, did Osmeña ever make the effort to expose the lie and tell all he knew about the clandestine negotiation for ransom payment? As far as we can remember, he merely shut his trap. He too was blissful in his mendacity.

The challenge now for Congress is to make sure that parties who acted in contempt of it and of the truth should pay for it. And we're not talking here of Romero alone.

What this episode underscores is the dilemma that is germane to kidnapping and hostage-taking. It shows that the government still has a lot to do to fashion an effective response to terrorism and kidnapping. Things as they are leave much to be desired. Rich hostages get ransomed, the poor ones get beheaded or killed in the crossfire.

What a God-forsaken world for the poor! They don't even have senators to broker their release.



Fact and fiction in DOTC-PAL quarrel

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

AS if to divert attention from itself, the Department of Transportation and Communications lashed out last week at Philippine Airlines, its chair Lucio Tan and businessman Ricky Delgado, accusing them of "masterminding" a hate campaign against Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez. The accusations ranged from "blackmail in a devious scheme to continue his free use of Naia Terminal 2 at the expense of the government and the public," non-payment of debts to the government totaling P1.8 billion for its "exclusive" use of Terminal 2, and non-payment of landing fees at the Naia.

We bumped into a high-ranking PAL official in Makati last Monday, and over cups of coffee, he refuted the DOTC accusations one by one. Here they are:

1. **Accusation:** PAL is using Terminal 2 for free.

Fact: PAL pays the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) about P10 million a month in rental and utility charges for its use of the facility. It has been current on its dues for Terminal 2 since transferring its domestic and international operations there in August 1999.

2. **Accusation:** PAL has exclusive use of the terminal.

Fact: Terminal 2 has been open for use of other airlines, foreign or domestic, all along. But no airline except PAL has taken up the offer to move there. And not because it has occupied the entire facility as claimed by the DOTC. Airport management can allocate space to other willing users of Naia 2.

Why are there no other takers? Naia General Manager Edgar Manda has the answer. "We invited (other) airlines but they do not want to transfer for technical and practical reasons," he told the House committee on good government last Nov. 27. Manda cited Cebu Pacific Airways which, he said, turned down his invitation because it did not want to entail additional operating costs. "The reason that they gave is that it is not viable for them to transfer because there will be two ground handling services," he said.

Manda also noted that Terminal 2 was configured to accommodate 737 passenger jets and newer planes. But Cebu Pacific, Air Philippines, Asian Spirit and other local airlines still have old planes. "For example," he said, "the aero bridges of Terminal 2 cannot service the existing fleet of Air Philippines and Asian Spirit."

3. **Accusation:** PAL owes the MIAA P1.8 billion.

Fact: This amount represents the MIAA's total charges on the use of all airport facilities, not just Terminal 2. PAL has been paying the MIAA about P55 million a month, comprising rentals for land, buildings/offices, check-in counters and utilities, and part of the contested aeronautical fees.

4. **Accusation:** PAL is not paying landing fees at the Naia.

Fact: Aeronautical fees comprise landing and takeoff fees. This item ballooned to about P800 million (excluding interest) since 1999 when PAL stopped paying it on the basis of a legal opinion by the Office of the Solicitor General saying that PAL's franchise exempted it from paying such fees.

However, the MIAA countered that it was simply an "opinion"—not a ruling—and thus it continued to bill PAL for aeronautical fees, plus interest. An impasse ensued when PAL contested this. Faced with a liquidity crunch, the MIAA appealed to PAL to pay a portion of the aeronautical fees while the issue remained unresolved.

Out of a desire to help, PAL agreed to pay 50 percent of both the current charges and arrears. PAL, however, has been paying under protest in the hope that a court ruling would eventually decide the issue. Up to this time, however, the government has shown no intention of bringing the matter to court. The DOTC, which oversees the MIAA, prefers to leave the issue hanging.

As an aside, the DOTC, of all government agencies, should know better. It is aware that PAL is under receivership and, as such, it programs its payments according to a schedule drawn up by its creditors and approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission under PAL's rehabilitation plan. "And yet the DOTC creates unnecessary controversies that undermines the flag carrier's prospects for recovery," the PAL official said.

In stark contrast, foreign airlines are getting full support from their governments following the terrorist attacks last Sept. 11. US airlines, for one, received $15 billion in loans and guarantees to help them navigate through these difficult times. Some states even suspended charging their flag carriers landing and takeoff fees to keep them flying amid a slump in air traffic.

And PAL? "Not only has it been left to fend for itself but also forced to contend with unfounded allegations from the very government agency supposed to give equal protection to it during this critical period," the official cried over his coffee. "And all because the DOTC leadership tries to muddle the controversial Terminal 3 issue that has been the root cause of Alvarez's personal woes."

Alvarez is facing a P76-million plunder suit with the Ombudsman, accused of irregularities in the award of construction contracts for Terminal 3. These complaints were raised by several groups that filed the suit. "Neither PAL nor Lucio Tan is a party to the suit," the PAL official emphasized.

At the same time, other groups are opposing Alvarez's confirmation by the Commission on Appointments. Again, neither PAL nor Tan is among these groups. "I wish the secretary will stop looking for scapegoats and smearing others," the PAL official said.

But to be fair to Alvarez, let's reserve judgment until he presents his side.

Words and bullets

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE FORUM I attended in Zamboanga last weekend had to do with the way the media reported events. As expected, the criticisms were plentiful.

Many felt that radio and television, in particular, were unduly "emotional" in reporting the dire events in Cabatangan. You listened to the radio reports about the hostage-taking, one said, and you would think the Moro National Liberation Front had gone on a rampage and was threatening to overrun the whole of Zamboanga. He imitated the voice of the reporter, alternating between panic and excitement, fear and exhilaration, to everyone's laughter.

Well may everyone laugh now, he went on, but it wasn't funny at that time. There was one particularly tense moment when the soldiers and the MNLF faced each other in a Mexican standoff, the MNLF having surrounded themselves with their human shield. Someone whispered to him: "I hope to God nobody sets off a firecracker. It would be one very, very bad joke." He and several others forthwith decided to go off and warn the entire neighborhood to be deathly quiet.

A young Muslim woman on the other hand was furious at the way media in general bandied labels recklessly, which they had obviously gotten from only one source. Suddenly, she said, the MNLF group, which had every right to be in Cabatangan, their terms of office not having expired at that point, became "renegades" and thence "terrorists," though they never initiated the firefight. Suddenly, they were put in the same boat as the Abu Sayyaf, a boat that had gaping holes in it. The result of that became patent a couple of days later when one MNLF member, who had lived in the place for years, went home to his family and was torn to pieces by a mob. The "torn to pieces" was literal, she said. They had to gather his dismembered pieces to put him to rest.

I said in reaction to this that I myself could not understand why television and radio, in particular, tended toward a hysterical tone in reporting events. I could understand emotional—nobody was exempt from being swept by powerful feelings at the sight of death and madness—but I could not understand hysterical. Particularly from TV. I could even understand the excess that came from radio reporting—radio reporters could rely only on their descriptions to give audiences an idea of what was happening, and could always go overboard on it. But TV had visual images to tell its stories. One would imagine TV people to be more minimalist, or at least calmer, in reporting events, their commentaries being more interpretative and serving as counterpoints to the pictures.

But the bigger problem was superficiality, one-sidedness, and not infrequently patent errors in the reporting. I would learn later that as far as reporting on Mindanao went, that problem wasn't confined to the provincial and national media, it extended to the foreign media. Fr. Angel Calvo, head of the Peace Advocates of Zamboanga, had no end of stories to tell in that respect. Having lived in Basilan for 20 years as a Claretian priest, he found himself turned into "the Abu Sayyaf expert" over the past couple of years. At one point he was being pestered for interviews every day by foreign journalists.

One of those who interviewed him was Mahlon Meyer of Newsweek. Calvo recalled that Meyer was all business during their meeting and even took notes while they were having dinner. When Calvo, who relished his food, proposed that they talk after eating, Meyer replied, "Why, can't I eat and write at the same time?"

Obviously not, as it turned out. Meyer got one crucial fact wrong. He quoted Calvo as saying the Muslims were prone to violence, had no ideology and could not be trusted at all when in fact Calvo was not referring to the Muslims but to the Abu Sayyaf. A monumental difference that had all of Calvo's friends calling him from all over Mindanao demanding to know if he had truly said what appeared in print.

Calvo protested the story vigorously, but it was only later that Newsweek corrected the story. It published Calvo's letter in a follow-up story by Meyer. Without Calvo's unrelenting persistence in getting the retraction, that quote would have passed into history and his credibility as a peacemaker between Christians and Muslims ruined forever. A good cautionary tale on distrusting people who write while they eat.

But if the foreign media make blithe judgments or report sloppily on the events in Mindanao, even more do the local media. One fundamental reason for that being that local media do not send their best people to the field. This is a country that does not put a great premium on reporting, the position of reporter being a lowly one (the more experienced people get to be promoted to editors) unlike in other countries where a reporter, particularly a senior reporter, is held in awe.

I can understand the business community in part when it complains about media's excesses. It is not the business community alone that feels that way. The freedom of the press merely means the freedom to tell the truth as one best sees it. It is not the freedom to stray from it. I will always say better the Philippine media, for all their excesses, than Singapore's, for all their "discipline." But I will also always say there is much room—and urgent need—for improvement. Especially so when media tread on thin ice, or where its reportage is a matter of life and death for their public. The task of media is to enlighten, not befuddle; to inform, not confuse; to affirm life, not death.

I've always thought the best way journalists might take the high road is for them to imagine themselves in a time of war, writing messages that couriers have to take through enemy territory—those couriers being constantly threatened by death or capture. You think that way, and you will make damn sure the things you write, or say, will be worth the life or liberty of other people.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

Arroyo to summon Accra lawyers?

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AT THE 40TH wedding anniversary of Sen. and Mrs. Rodolfo Biazon recently, Sen. John Osmeña was still fuming when I queried him about reports that he would bolt the majority party if the administration did not remove Cebu acting customs collector Santiago Maravillas and reinstall Roberto Sacramento, a retired military officer whose unceremonious removal was tolerated by Finance Secretary Lito Camacho. Osmeña said that apart from the fact that Maravillas holds the position of Collector IV while Sacramento is a Collector V, the former tolerated rice smuggling in Cebu. All efforts to get him out, said Osmeña, drew only "*pa*-cute" gimmicks from Camacho. He got the Cebu congressmen to support his demand, and his threat to bolt the majority party, which could tilt the precarious balance in the Senate, has caused a lot of tension in the Senate as well as in Cebu. Right now, said Osmeña, seven boats loaded with rice are sitting in the harbor and everyone's watching what's going to happen to them.

Yesterday, reports said that Sacramento would be reinstated. The outspoken Cebu senator should now be placated, Camacho should pass the Commission on Appointments wringer, and Franklin Drilon will keep the Senate presidency.

* * *

I asked Osmeña why he never said anything about the rampant smuggling during the Erap years which was being done by some of his mistresses. It's a tribute to our 18-year-old friendship that Osmeña didn't take offense. He merely smiled and said, "But wasn't that why Edsa II had to happen, and shouldn't we expect more from this administration?"

Smart answer.

* * *

I queried Biazon whether the opposition is planning a coup against Drilon. "Not at the moment," he replied. He said he had pointed out to his minority colleagues that it would be crazy to try to wrest the leadership since they would only inherit the majority's problems, among them: how to close the hearings on Sen. Panfilo Lacson and the drugs issue as well as the Mike Arroyo issue. Those are big problems for the majority, he said.

* * *

Sen. Joker Arroyo is really sore at the minority and he has every right to be. Last August, when his blue ribbon committee was conducting hearings on the controversy involving the First Gentleman and the Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc. (PCCI) franchise, PCCI president Pacifico Marcelo was summoned to testify, but he "disappeared" for 45 days, ignoring the summons. When the allegations against Mike Arroyo didn't fly because Veronica Rodrigo stuck to her "*Napag-alamqn ko*" testimony and witness Malou Nuñez chose to stay in the United States, the opposition wrote a different script for Marcelo, said Arroyo, and this time, President Macapagal was the target.

* * *

Last week Marcelo suddenly surfaced with an affidavit antedated to August and which didn't identify his nationality. In the affidavit, he alleged that GMA called him to the Palace to tell him she wanted 51 percent of the PCCI in exchange for the assurance that he could have the franchise bill (which she vetoed last April) refiled without any hassle. The opposition then launched a high-profile campaign to pressure Joker to calendar a hearing on this latest allegation, but the senator said Marcelo ought to "fall in line" since his committee was still finishing a couple of other cases. "He disappeared for 45 days, so what's the hurry?" Arroyo said acidly.

The opposition then accused Arroyo of protecting GMA. But when he gave in and postponed a second hearing on the coco levy issue to calendar the Marcelo case on Dec. 13, the minority asked that budget hearings be scheduled for that day. Senate rules say no committee hearings can be held when budget hearings are going on.

* * *

"The minority is playing games with me," Joker fumed. Talk is that he is about to dish it back to them. There are reports that he plans to summon the Accra lawyers who were implicated by the PCGG in a lawsuit now with the Supreme Court, on the coco levy issue. Joker reportedly plans to ask them pointblank to identify the beneficial owners of the 14 holding companies that own a 31-percent interest in San Miguel Corp. now being eyed by the PCGG for distribution to small farmers. The Accra lawyers packaged those deals, and a hearing could make Sen. Edgardo Angara quite uncomfortable, since he was Accra's grandmaster and chief strategist on the levy.

PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac already aired this appeal for the Accra lawyers to tell all about the levy in her recent Senate testimony. If Joker's plan materializes, it would be the first time in 15 years that the issue would be discussed in the Senate. Said one insider, "Joker is a brawler. They shouldn't mess with him."

* * *

A fellow columnist, commenting on these developments, opined that the minority is not serious about substantiating its charges; it is only bent in gaining media mileage for any issue that would destroy the President. The minority's shotgun approach, which makes no effort to even sound credible, was evident in the Mike Arroyo bribery case and the Robert Rivero allegations, both of which didn't fly. Then there's the allegation that GMA stands to gain P20 billion from the P50 billion compromise deal on the coconut levy. And now comes Sen. Serge Osmeña asserting that GMA was aware of the multimillion ransom allegedly paid by kidnap victim Reghis Romero.

My reaction to Osmeña's claim was: What took him so long to denounce this? And would Palace people really have borrowed his plane, considering that he bolted the People Power Coalition right after the elections?

Given all these, it's tempting to believe talk about a grand design to knock down GMA either in time for the Edsa II anniversary next month, or for 2004. The opposition should remember, though, that what worked for Erap would work for Gloria, too. She's fast becoming the underdog, gaining the sympathy especially of the lower classes, judging from her 53 percent satisfaction rating in the recent SWS survey.

* * *

My brother, Ed Olivares, called to ask that I make an appeal to members of Ateneo High School Class of '50 to attend the blessing of the John P. Delaney, S.J., Plaza at the Ateneo High School in Loyola Heights tomorrow, Friday, at 6 p.m. The Delaney Plaza is a Class '50 project and will feature a bust specially sculpted by the UP-trained Tito Sanchez of the late much-loved Irish-American priest, who was once high school dean and later UP Catholic chaplain. The blessing will be preceded by a 5 p.m. Misa Recitata at the St. Stanislaus Kostka chapel. Reception follows at 7 p.m. at 1, Alta Vista Drive, Alta Vista Village. For details, call the Ateneo Office of Alumni Affairs, Tel. No. 426-6081/6082.

Pakistanis tolerating US presence–for now

NEWS ANALYSIS

Bryan Pearson

ISLAMABAD—The tolerance of Pakistanis for the unprecedented American presence in their country won't extend much beyond the capture of Osama bin Laden in neighboring Afghanistan, analysts said.

Besides making use of Pakistan's military bases and its air corridors, the United States is also cooperating with Islamabad's secret police in intelligence gathering operations as it homes in on the man it believes masterminded the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington.

Pakistanis had scarcely grown used to the idea that US military personnel were in their country when they were told FBI officials had been posted at their airports to help with surveillance. They then learned that none other than CIA chief George Tenet had popped in during the week for talks and tea with their president.

"The Pakistani people will tolerate all this because they understand it is linked to the operations against Osama bin Laden," said political commentator M. A. Niazi. "But already they are starting to say the country's sovereignty is being compromised."

Stray bombs from US air attacks falling on Pakistani soil and a reported raid across the border into Pakistan from Afghanistan last week—without Islamabad's permission—by British troops chasing after members of Bin Laden's al-Qaida network, only served to heighten these concerns, he said. "Some people are saying that already it is time for the Americans to leave because the Taliban are defeated," Niazi said.

Resentment in Pakistan against the United States dates back to the 1965 war against India over Kashmir, and the 1971 war which led to the creation of Bangladesh, when Pakistanis felt betrayed by Washington's refusal of support. Subsequent US backing of military dictator General Zia ul-Haq and the hanging of the man he overthrew in 1977, the much-loved Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, merely added to the resentment, which burst into open anger during the 1991 Gulf War against Iraq. At that time, Islamic leaders could call half-a-million Pakistanis on to the streets in often-violent demonstrations.

Resentment in Pakistan against the United States dates back to the 1965 war against India over Kashmir

The resentment was rekindled on Oct. 7 this year when US warplanes began blasting the positions of the Taliban for harboring Bin Laden. However, support for the protests, which attracted crowds of up to 50,000 just three weeks ago, has collapsed even quicker than the Taliban regime, which is still clinging to its last redoubt in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar.

Political commentator Hassan Askari Rizvi, former head of political science at the University of Punjab, believes resentment against the United States has not gone away but is now "below the surface." "It is still there," he said. "Only it is now less overt."

Curiously, he added, some of the resentment has been diverted to the religious leaders who a month ago had urged Pakistanis to go fight alongside the Taliban in support of what they said was a jihad, or holy war, against the American "infidels."

"The reason is that many of those who went to fight have now been killed or are trapped in Afghanistan," Rizvi said. "And the religious leaders are being blamed for sending them there."

Washington's granting to Islamabad of $100 million in aid and its agreement to reschedule $375 million of Pakistan's debts had helped turn away some of the anger, he added.

However, he cautioned, if the United States tried to keep some form of permanent military presence in Pakistan, or, more importantly, failed to make good its promises of financial aid to help Islamabad cope with the millions of Afghan refugees on its territory, the mood in the country could change.

If the US operations lead to a stable government in Afghanistan and refugees start returning to their homeland, and if Pakistan's economy picks up in the next six months, Musharraf's star will rise, Rizvi said. But if Afghanistan returns to a state of lawlessness and even more refugees arrive on Pakistan's borders, stretching Islamabad's economic resources even further, Musharraf's future could be under threat, he added. *AFP*

Who is martyr, who is hero?

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

I HAVE just come from a faraway place where many great individuals had worked quietly, selflessly, heroically and in obscurity for almost a hundred years in the service of the most forgotten, the loathed and the helpless, and also in the interest of science and health, so that this world would be a better place.

I will write about what I have come to see and know and learn sometime in the future. But for now, let me say that our part of the world is definitely not lacking in heroic and saintly individuals. We just do not know about many of them because we tend to focus on a celebrated few who are visible and within reach.

Yes, from the most desolate places life oozes and renews itself again and again. Hope springs eternal from the depths of human wounds. But hope goes with patience, arduous work and perseverance. I tried to plunge into that depth, into history and memory so that I might know and understand. I came home humbled, enriched and enlivened.

After that *pasakalye*, I move to a different realm. On Nov. 30, six more names were added to the Bantayog ng mga Bayani's granite Wall of Remembrance. This coincided with the groundbreaking for a multi-purpose center which will house a museum and an open-air café.

The martyrs: Armando D. Palabay, Jessica M. Sales, Jennifer K. Cariño and Manuel C. Bautista. The heroes: historian Renato Constantino and businessman-activist Jaime V. Ongpin.

Little is known about the four martyrs. They were in the cusp of adulthood when their lives were violently ended. Only their next of kin and comrades kept their memory alive all these years. Now that their names are on the Wall, they will be known by many, their lives emulated by the young who seek meaning in their chaotic milieu.

Armando "Mandrake" D. Palabay, an economics major dropped out from the University of the Philippines and went back to Abra to live among the Tinguians. His main task was with an armed "propaganda unit." Mandrake and his comrades died on Nov. 27, 1974 in Abra while fighting pursuing soldiers. Mandrake was 21. Their bodies were buried together in an unmarked grave near the Abra River.

As a student of political science, **Jessica M. Sales** was a keen critic of the national situation. She became chair of the Centro Escolar University student government from 1971 to 1972 and editor of the student paper. She later taught at the UP-Los Baños where she became involved with the youth. Jessica also organized teachers and health professionals. She knew her bold initiatives were being watched.

Jessica was 26 when she disappeared in 1977. She, along with six friends, had gone to a meeting in Makati. Reports said they were forcibly taken by military operatives. Appeals from their families and international groups to the Marcos administration proved futile.

Even at a young age, Baguio-born **Jennifer Pureza "Jingjing" Kintanar Cariño** was already aware of the discrimination against Igorots and openly denounced this. Jingjing studied at UP-Baguio where she took up Math-Physics. She wrote for the school paper and sang in some Baguio joints. She later used her talents to train other activists in alternative music.

After a while, Jingjing dropped out of school to be a full-time "cultural activist." In 1972, she married fellow activist Gilbert Pimentel and helped organize the Highland Activists.

Then the revolution beckoned. Jingjing was torn between heeding the call and staying with her baby. She chose to go to the Cordillera to work in poor villages.

Her death was accidental. A recruit was tinkering with a gun when it went off.

Manuel C. Bautista became involved in student politics and campus journalism at UP-Los Baños where he majored in economics. But before he could finish his course, Manny joined the underground movement to fight martial rule. He later joined the armed resistance.

Manny put to use his writing skills by editing an underground paper in Southern Tagalog. He was arrested in 1973 and detained in Laguna. After two months, he escaped and rejoined the underground. In September 1976, his group encountered government troops in Tagkawayan, Quezon. Manny was killed during the firefight. He had just turned 30.

* * *

I would like to say here that the Bantayog Foundation's criterion for deciding who is a "martyr" and who is a "hero" is something I find most strange. It depends on when a worthy nominee died: during or after the dictatorship. Those who died (in any way) between 1972 and February 1986 are "martyrs" while those who died after are "heroes" (Diokno, Tañada et al.).

The manner of death (killed in battle or while being tortured, accident, disease) is not the criterion. Tribal chief Macli-ing Dulag who fought for his people and was murdered (1980) by military men is a "martyr" (and can't be a hero?) and so are the four nuns who died (1984) in the boat that sank.

Well-known activist Lean Alejandro and labor lawyer Rolando Olalia who fought the dictatorship but were brutally killed only after February 1986 are nowhere in the roster of martyrs and roster of heroes. Lando's father Bert Olalia who had been fighting for the cause of workers since before the world war and who fought even harder against martial rule and weakened and died in 1984 after his detention is neither martyr nor hero. Labor leader Jun Flores who disappeared in the 1980s has not been considered. A bias against the working class?

If you ask me, I would rather have February 1986 as the cut-off date. (Too late to do that now.) Sorry *na lang* for those who outlived the others and survived to see the dawning of a new day. Or those really deserving who died or would die only after 1986 from accidents, disease, old age and the like, or were assassinated like Lean and Lando should have a Wall of Honor of their own.

As it is, everybody has been mixed together and the words martyrs and heroes have been arbitrarily redefined.

Opening doors

YOUNGBLOOD

Mark M. Imbong

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

TEACHING sucks.

Yes, you read it right. I am, indeed, referring to that occupation where its practitioners are crazy enough to stand alone, almost defenseless, in front of a group of kids and take them head on. And all they have are a few sheets of manila paper, a roll of masking tape, a pentel pen and their ultimate security blanket, a lesson plan notebook.

This exercise doesn't last for only a day or a week. It's an ordeal that lasts for an entire school year. And some people have even been misled to actually stay in this line of work for their entire life. Can you believe that?

Worse is that while it is hailed as the noblest profession, the financial compensation hardly hints of its lofty status. And even that is just the tip of the iceberg.

Why do I have such bad feelings toward the profession? Allow me to explain.

When you are, unfortunately, drawn into the teaching profession, one of the things that immediately hits you is that it is a pressure-filled occupation. Imagine this: Every word you say, every conclusion you reach, every theory you illustrate, goes directly into the mind of each youngster in your care. Talk about permanently altering someone's life! Give a wrong answer, slip in a disrespectful remark, and that kid's life is misdirected forever! It's not as if 15 years down the road you can call back the student and tell him, "Oh, your grade school teacher taught you something wrong. Can I correct the error?" What do you think these kids are, software programs?

What makes the process even more crucial is a curious fact that only teachers can understand: Children will not only remember some mathematical property or the natural products of a Philippine region; they remember, more importantly, the value of what you taught them. Be it a deeper sense of nationalism, a disciplined manner of thinking, or simply a love for knowledge, what sticks to their minds is what lies beyond the topics discussed, the life-lessons not found in textbook. In choosing to become a teacher, you give yourself the power to change someone's life—for the better.

What else can beat that? Sure, Bill Gates has entered the lives of every PC user with his company's programs, but that cannot compare with what an educator is capable of doing. I mean, you are there at the precise moment of a student's life when you can mold him into being the best he can ever be! In every encounter you have with your students, you lay the foundation for the countless values that we have often find lacking in ourselves: self-confidence, self-respect, generosity, and even faith in ourselves and in our God. It is these values that ultimately shape our lives. As the saying goes, "A teacher affects eternity; you never know where his influence ends."

No one can say that being a teacher is easy. Not only do you have to prepare three, four or maybe five lesson plans for the next day, you also have to worry about other things. You have that student who is so very much affected by what is happening at home, he couldn't care less if he comes to school unprepared for a quiz. There is that school committee you head, and the report is due before the end of the week. Not to mention the mountain of papers you have to check, or the endless grades you have to encode. How can you deal with all of this?

The only thing that keeps you afloat is the knowledge that the people you work with understand what you go through each day. They empathize with you and they can offer you that little bit of cheer you need so badly at the end of the day. Whether your seventh class of the day has just ended, or you've spoken to your last parent during the parent-teacher conference, it feels so good to bump into a fellow teacher who, with genuine concern, asks you, "*Kamusta ka na? Okay ka lang ba?*" The question knocks you over with its simplicity and sincerity. Here is someone who, probably had an equally rough day, asking you how you are doing. How many professionals will ask you a similar question out of real, heartfelt concern (that is, if they actually stop what they are doing and really look at you)? For one brief moment, they set aside their own worries and make you feel that what you have been through is truly important. In the process, they make you feel important, both as an educator and as a person.

Their secret? Here is my best guess. When you are a teacher, you're not dealing with market shares, quotas, or profit-and-loss statements. All these are up there in your head. As a teacher, you grow sensitive to what is happening inside your students, going beyond the overt behavior you catch in the classroom. You try your best to look at what is in their hearts, what are their emotions, what are their feelings.

It is no surprise, therefore, that you often find yourself missing the company of these people once you decide to move away from them. For once in your life, you were in the company of persons who actually cared about what you were going through, and made sure that you knew that.

Then there are the students, those hyperactive, irritating little people who can't wait to grow up, who but still end up acting like they have been in kindergarten the past five or six years. And don't you start thinking that the older your students get (biologically speaking), the easier they are to handle. Sure, the younger ones look up to you as if you were Superman or a fairy princess, but have you tried keeping them absolutely quiet and still in their seats even for just a minute? Then as adolescence kicks in, you get a lot of wise guys who think their day is not complete unless they've placed their teachers in awkward or embarrassing situations. In such cases, you can either storm out of the room at least three times a month, or lose your voice after handling two or three subjects. With the kind of treatment you get, there can be little argument that your students do not make your job easier.

But I have to stop right there. Because for every forgettable moment you encounter, there can be 10, even 20, different memories that you are more than willing to keep. Among these are the lunchtime *kwentuhan* with your students done over cheese sticks and iced tea and the hours spent on the road with them during field trips. You remember the jokes (corny though they may be) shared while attending their class nights, and those unexpected greetings of "Hi, Sir!" or "Hi, Ma'am!" as you are walking in a mall. All these things put together, and a million other experiences, make me miss every one of my students.

Every school year, as I bid goodbye to another batch of students, I whisper a little prayer for them. During that brief spiritual moment, I ask the Greatest Teacher to watch over these young men and keep them safe as they take their next steps through high school, college and beyond. It is not that I have second thoughts. I know that I have done my part, and now it is time for me to see the fruits of my labor. I have opened some doors for them, and now they have to be able to walk through them.

As I remember the last lesson plan that passed through my hands, I can say one thing: If you want to be blessed the same way I was, there is only one simple way to do it: Be a teacher.

Mark M. Imbong, 27, taught at the Ateneo Grade School for four years before joining the sales and marketing department of a giant food company.

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LETTERS

Who is afraid of Misuari?

I HEAVED a sigh of relief when Malaysian authorities caught Nur Misuari sneaking into Sabah, after he instigated an uprising by his followers in Jolo that left 113 people dead. But the next day, I was dismayed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's statement that she wanted Misuari to remain in a Malaysian jail for violating that country's immigration laws. She was not interested in Misuari's early repatriation to the Philippines despite an arrest order issued for him.

Is the President scared of Misuari? Is she afraid that bringing him before the bar of justice and following the court's decision will make Misuari a martyr?

President Macapagal should follow through the government's moves against Misuari, viz: his suspension as Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao governor; the filing of rebellion charges against him; an order for his arrest; and the cancellation of his passport.

But first things first. The Philippine government should allow the Malaysian government to prosecute Misuari for illegal entry and pronounce the corresponding sentence. The judicial action in Malaysia will form part of Malaysia's record against Misuari.

Next, the Philippines should request the deportation of Misuari to the Philippines. He should be held here, without bail in a top-security prison, in Luzon. The charges should include rebellion, plunder and other crimes committed in Mindanao. A Metro Manila court should try the cases under tight security. If he is sentenced to death, so be it!

No Christian, Muslim, etc., should be above the law! It's about time these criminals, parading as leaders, got their just desserts!—**QUINTIN GOMEZ, Barangay San Agustin, San Fernando, Pampanga**

Unfairly linked to actress' murder

IN ALL my life and career in the military, I have always maintained a low profile because that is the nature of my job and I deem it to be the best way of serving God and country. As a retired professional soldier content "to fade away," I am hurt by disclosures in media putting me in a very bad light.

The imputations on my name and honor are both lamentable and disturbing. I believe in the critical role of media in a democracy but publishing reports without verifying the veracity of the story speaks badly of journalism.

I would like, again, to deny all speculations linking me to the dastardly slaying of movie actress Nida Blanca. It was a tragic and senseless killing that must be solved and the perpetrators brought before the bar of justice.

I never met Ms Blanca in my life. I saw her on television and in the movies, and that's the sum of what I know of her.

I have been unfairly linked to the crime, and all because I was the original tenant of the apartment where Philip Medel Jr. was staying. I admit that I used to rent that place as a small bodega but I ceased renting that place some months ago after some friends took over the lease in an unofficial manner, without formally closing my contract. I have kept my silence because I wanted to let the professional investigators go on with their duties.

I admit, too, as I have confirmed before, that I know Medel from way back. He was an asset and a friend. This is usual in my kind of work. But to associate me to a crime simply because of friendship is not fair and definitely not reasonable.

Moreover, I am not a financier at the casino. Neither am I a gambler. I have no money to gamble or to lend to gamblers.

As regards the other items mentioned, again, I would like to deny that I had a hand in the Ador Mawanay-Vic Corpus exposé. I retired from the Isafp in 1990 and since then I have had nothing to do with the organization's activities. I supported the appointment of Corpus as Isafp chief and did not comment adversely on his appointment contrary to what the writer reported.

As to the statement that I was involved in the "search for the Marcos treasure," this stemmed from my limited role as special consultant of the Presidential Commission on Good Government during the term of President Fidel Ramos.

In sum, I am very disappointed with parts of the INQUIRER reports that were completely untrue, and the distortion of some things I did. It is deplorable that this has happened late in my life. I have served my country well. I have never been charged with any crime in court or linked to any wrongdoing since I joined the government in 1960.

I wish that this letter will be published so that I can set things right and regain my honor.—**BRIG. GEN. GALILEO C. KINTANAR (RET.), gckintanar@yahoo.com**

Deceived by a 'princess'

I AM an avid reader of your newspaper. Your news coverage is admirable, given how difficult it is to keep track of what is true or false.

Enclosed is a self-explanatory letter anent an Associated Press article which I believe you published in good faith on Sept. 29, 2001 titled, "NY Pinay dances to help promote Muslim culture."

It is not a surprise that this sort of article should elicit astonished as well as amused reactions from those who personally know this reinvented Potri Ranka Manis, a.k.a. Ma. Elnora Monteclaro Roca. She has every right to spread Philippine culture abroad based on truthfulness. For instance, it won't take much to acknowledge the source of "Rajah Mangandiri," one of the ballet pieces in the repertoire of the Sining Kindaw which she leads. The Philippine Educational Theater Association (Peta), through the research of noted director/composer Lutgardo Labad, staged "Rajah Mangandiri" in 1992-93 at the Rajah Sulayman Theater in Manila.

Indeed it is regrettable that the Filipino-American searching for identity seems to have been deceived by this "princess."—**LIGAYA FERNANDO-AMILBANGSA, artistic director and president, Francisca Reues Aquino Memorial Foundation Inc., Alunalun Dance Circle, 13 J.P. Rizal St., Calumpang, Marikina City**

Naia 3 more convenient for travelers

THE ALLEGED demand of residents of Pampanga for the ongoing construction of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Passenger Terminal 3 to be discontinued in favor of the airport to be built in Clark Field makes no sense, if those who are spreading this supposed clamor are to be believed.

Frequent travelers and businessmen who reside or operate in Metro Manila will definitely have an opposite view. I, for one, will find it most impractical and silly to depart and arrive via Clark Field. And being based in Manila, I represent the majority of the country's international passengers.

The critics of the Naia 3 should think a hundred times before even suggesting that the operation of a new international airport at Clark is for the "greater public interest." Unless the government can afford to build a skyway that will cut land travel time from Metro Manila to Pampanga, these critics should keep their peace.

Imagine an investor from abroad who is invited to attend a business presentation in Manila. He is tired. He wants to get into a good hotel for a quick rest and freshening up. He lands in Clark, but he must take a three-hour trip by car or coach to Manila. The travel time alone will add to his jet lag. If the traffic will not get the best of him, the jet lag will do it.

The point is, why compel him to land at Clark when he can go directly to Manila which is his original destination?

Will the detractors of the Naia 3 please answer?—**NINI JIMENEZ, Hyatt Regency Manila**

Peza locators paying correct taxes

I WISH to take exception to the article last Nov. 28 written by Clarissa S. Batino titled, "DOF blasts ecozone agencies for tax lapses." It said that the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza), the Subic Boy Metropolitan Authority and Clark Development Corp. were "allowing their locators to pay taxes using their net income "instead of collecting the 5-percent gross income tax."

Peza locator companies, under the 5-percent gross income tax regime are guided by Revenue Regulation No. 1-95 that defines "gross income" for purposes of computing the special tax due under Section 24 of Republic Act 7916, as amended by RA 8748, as referring to the gross sales or gross revenue derived from the business activity within the ecozone, net of sales discounts, sales and allowances and minus the cost of sales or dimes cost but before any deduction is made for administrative expenses or incidental losses during a given taxable period. Please be assured that Peza will not allow its locator companies to go beyond what is set by this regulation.

The writer of the article might have mixed up her facts by including Peza in BIR Revenue Regulation No. 16-99, which expanded the allowable deductions under the 5-percent gross income tax. We wish to emphasize that BIR Revenue Regulation No. 16-99 only covers economic zones created under RA 7227 i.e., the Bases Conversion and Development Authority, and does not cover Peza economic zones.—**ANTHONY B. BADUA, manager, Incentives Management Department, Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City**

Sexual abuse of women detainees

I WRITE as a member of the New York City Amnesty International chapter. It has come to my attention that women are extremely vulnerable to ill-treatment by law enforcement officials. Over 30 reports of rape or other sexual abuse of women or girls have been recorded between 1995 and 2000. You may very well be aware of these grave injustices.

I have written to various authorities urging them to implement specific steps to protect women from rape and other sexual abuses while in custody. My letters have gone to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Interior Secretary Jose Lina, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, the chief of the Philippine National Police, the chair of the National Police Commission, the Jail Management director, secretariat of the House committee on women, and the Commission on Human Rights.

Most female victims of torture are from disadvantaged social groups, including suspected prostitutes, street children, drug users and the poor. Many women arrested as prostitutes under the anti-vagrancy law have complained that they were raped or subjected to other sexual violence by police officers.

Discrimination against women impacts significantly on their vulnerability to torture. Rape and sexual abuse of women detainees by state officials amounts to torture or ill treatment, which are prohibited both under the Philippine Constitution, and by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the United Nations Convention against Torture.

I appeal to the authorities mentioned above and to you to ensure that police, prison and military officials are fully aware of these laws, and that the perpetrators will be brought to justice. Failure to bring to justice those responsible for human rights violations against women in custody is not only a denial of justice for the victims but also serves to create a climate where individuals can continue to commit violations without fear of arrest, prosecution or punishment.

Are you aware that in some of these cases being reviewed by Amnesty International, police officers accused of rape had been allowed access to female detainees without the presence of female officers? Please refer to the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners with regard to this major infraction.

I respectfully request your feedback with regard to the ill-treatment of women in the Philippines.—**MAUREEN A. MADDEN, 516 East 78 St., Apt. 2G, New York, USA**

Senior citizen's ID not honored

I AM Steve Ke, the son of Ildefonsa Ke.

My mother was confined at the Metropolitan Hospital at 1357 G. Masangkay Street, Tondo, Manila. Upon her discharge, I presented her senior citizen's card for the mandatory 20 percent discount. But the hospital staff at the administration, billing and at the cashier's office refused to honor her senior citizen's discount card. We had to pay P34,773.40 for services rendered to my mother.

Her senior citizen discount should have amounted to P6,954.68.—**STEVE KE, 2 Granada St., New Manila, Quezon City**

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The good old days

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

LAST week I attended a conference in Taipei on "Asian Youth at Risk," a meeting that drew more than 70 participants from throughout Asia who reviewed findings from various youth surveys and their implications for youth programs and policies.

It was one of the best meetings I've ever attended and I hope to write about its proceedings in future columns. Today, though, I want to highlight one of the issues that emerged in the meeting. This is the tendency, particularly strong in Asia, to attribute young people's problems to "modernization" and "westernization." The temptation is to imagine, and yearn, for a time when life was simple and stress-free for Asian youth, guided by "Asian values," particularly a respect for authority.

At the Taipei meeting I had to remind conference delegates that such an idyllic past probably never existed. In fact, the very concepts of "young adults," "adolescents" and "teenagers" are very recent in human history. For most of human history, children became adults shortly after puberty, leaving home to start their own families. The word "teenager" does not exist in many Asian languages because societies didn't recognize such a period in people's lives.

Respect had a different context then: you were subservient to parents until you were married, which usually happened at a very early age. If you were male, you were fortunate because you were now on your own. If you were female, your loyalties were merely transferred to your husband and later, to your sons.

In Taipei, I couldn't help but cite one of my grandmothers as an example of the mythical "good old days." This grandmother—I will use Ama, the way the Hokkien Chinese refer to grandmothers—died in 1990 at the age of 98. She lived in Davao, and each summer when I visited, I would listen to her stories, many repeated over and over again, about her life in China and in the Philippines.

In those good, old days, to be correctly female and bourgeois, Ama's feet were bound—tightly wrapped with cloth starting when she was very young, about 4 or 5 years. "Waahhhh...," Ama would exclaim as she described how they'd crunch her toes and the arch of her feet before tightly swaddling the feet. I still remember how she would wince as she described how she would wake up in the middle of the night, sobbing from the pain. She'd beg her mother to stop the foot-binding, only to be scolded: "You're a girl and a girl has to have her feet bound."

I'd listen to her stories while staring, fascinated by her "lotus feet," which were about four inches long. Eventually, I found a very old book in the University of the Philippines' library about foot-binding. I learned that the lotus feet were considered quite erotic, with poems written to extol its beauty, and the way it made women walk in tiny, measured steps. The book also had X-ray photographs of the lotus feet, and the fascination I had over my Ama's lotus feet gave way to disgust, realizing how cruelly deformed the feet were. With an understanding, too, of human anatomy, I realized how much more difficult and dangerous it must have been for women like her to have gone through each pregnancy, supported by those tiny feet.

Ama didn't just talk about the foot-binding. She recalled, too, how badly she felt seeing her brothers going to school and learning to read and write. Again, her mother told her girls were meant to stay home. What use would there be for reading and writing?

Ama was married off when she was 15. In those good old days, all marriages were arranged by parents. My grandfather left shortly after for the Philippines and then came back many years later to take her to Davao where, it turned out, he already had another wife, a Filipina.

After the second wife died while delivering a child, Ama took in the orphaned children, including the newborn one. Ama breast-fed that child, together with one of her own sons. She explained to me: "The child was, after all, your grandfather's son." In those good old days, that was expected of a woman, proof of her loyalty to her husband.

Ama was widowed when she was 35 and raised her own four children as well as four from the other wife. She never remarried (widows were not supposed to) and she raised the children with some financial help from her brothers and by doing odd jobs as a dressmaker and midwife.

Filipina women were in many ways more fortunate than the Chinese, but I know, too, that arranged marriages, child brides, total obedience to husbands and sons, silent and solitary suffering, all existed too during the good old days in the Philippines. Reading about the sad, short life of Maria Teresa Carlson tells us, too, those good old days remain with us in the Philippines.

Certainly, the good old days live on in some countries, traditions upheld in the name of religion and culture. We read of Afghan girls segregated from boys when they reach the age of 7, married off at 12 and sentenced to a life of invisibility, wrapped head to toe in their burqa. There are no "youth" problems in countries where youth is forbidden.

I have no quarrel with women's traditional expressions of strength in terms of loyalty and sacrifice. But even more admirable, I feel, is the strength they show when they question and defy tradition. Ama, in her 50s, having accomplished her duties as wife and mother, learned at last to read. She never learned to write and I suspect that's why she told me her stories over and over again, her way of unbinding those lotus feet and unraveling the myths about the good old days.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

POST-TALIBAN ADMINISTRATION

4 Afghan factions sign historic pact

KOENIGSWINTER, Germany—Four Afghan factions signed a pact Wednesday to create a new administration headed by an anti-Taliban battlefield commander, concluding a historic agreement aimed at restoring peace and stability to the war-ravaged nation.

Hamid Karzai, a moderate Muslim whose fighters are part of the push to oust the Taliban from their last stronghold in Kandahar, was chosen to head the interim administration to replace Taliban rule after the Northern Alliance won control of most of the country.

Envoys of the Northern Alliance, former King Mohammad Zaher Shah and two smaller exile groups signed the UN-mediated accord after nine days of talks at the luxury Petersberg hotel overlooking Bonn, Germany.

It establishes a 30-member interim Cabinet headed by Karzai, meant as the first step toward a broad-based government representing the range of Afghanistan's ethnic groups and regions.

Applause rang out as delegates signed the accord in a brief ceremony attended by German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer. The German leaders shook hands with the Afghan envoys and UN mediator Lakhdar Brahimi embraced them after they all signed.

It's miraculous, it really is, from what we had 10 days ago, a Western diplomat observing the talks said. It gets the process going, which really is the point. We have a long way to go, but you have to start somewhere.

After intense haggling over posts, the Northern Alliance retained the powerful defense, foreign and interior ministries under the accord.

Two women were named to posts, Sima Samar as a deputy premier and minister of women's affairs and Suhaila Seddiqi as health minister.

Brahimi won the accord after a final 10 hours of marathon negotiations over the composition of the interim authority, which will govern Afghanistan for six months until the former king convenes a traditional tribal council, or Loya Jirga.

With ethnic balance as the primary criterion, Brahimi shuttled among the four factions through the night to cull 30 names from 150 candidates.

The final Cabinet list was not being released, however, until 10 or 11 candidates can be contacted to formally accept the posts, UN spokesperson Ahmad Fawzi said. The replies were expected later Wednesday.

Pool footage from the Petersberg hotel, where the delegations have been meeting under tight security, showed Brahimi and the four delegation leaders emerging from a conference room, weary but smiling.

We had no sleep at all, Fawzi, from the hotel, said.

The consensus on the Cabinet triggers a speedy transfer of power in Kabul, scheduled for Dec. 22, and secures billions in promised aid to reconstruct the country.

Agreement on who will run Afghanistan was at least as contentious as the framework deal achieved early Tuesday under international pressure on Northern Alliance leaders in Kabul to remove obstacles that threatened to derail the talks.

The four factions negotiating Afghanistan's political future sought to achieve a balance representing Afghanistan's main Pashtun, Tajik, Uzbek and Hazara ethnic groups—and also women who have been virtually excluded from public life under the Taliban. *AP*

US soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division patrol an airfield littered with Soviet MiG fighters abandoned at the end of the Soviet-Afghan conflict, within Bagram Air Base about 40 km north of the Afghan capital. AP

Rumsfeld: No need for US Marines to finish job

WASHINGTON—Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld expressed confidence that Afghan opposition forces would defeat the Taliban at their last stand in Kandahar, and he all but ruled out sending in the Marines to finish the job.

"We don't have any plans at the present time to be using US forces in that way," Rumsfeld said Tuesday.

At a Pentagon news conference, Rumsfeld said two main groups of anti-Taliban forces were pressing toward Kandahar while a contingent of about 1,300 Marines was operating farther south but within striking distance. Other officials said the Marine contingent might grow to about 1,500 in the days ahead.

"The situation in Kandahar is complicated. It's not easy, but one thing is clear: The Taliban and al-Qaida will be driven from Kandahar," Rumsfeld said. ``The choice really is theirs as to how it happens."

The Marines' presence, with their vehicle-mounted machine guns, shoulder-fired missiles and attack helicopters, makes it close to impossible for the Taliban to reinforce or resupply Kandahar, he added.

Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, chair of the Joint Chiefs ofStaff, said at the news conference with Rumsfeld that the Marines had begun "interdicting lines of communication" south of Kandahar, military jargon for blocking or otherwise cutting off roadways leading out of the city. He would not discuss how the Marines were doing this, saying he did not want the Taliban to know.

Another official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Marine patrols were aimed not only at stopping the reinforcement of Kandahar but also watching for the attempted escape of Taliban leaders. The official said allied troops, apparently Australian or British, were patrolling with the Marines.

Myers would not say whether the Marines had engaged in combat on these patrols.

The focus of US bombing is the Kandahar area in eastern Afghanistan and the mountainous area near the Khyber Pass south of Jalalabad, where it is believed Osama bin Laden and his top lieutenants are hiding in a complex of caves and tunnels.

US planes also are dropping leaflets in the Jalalabad area to solicit help in tracking down Bin Laden.

Anti-Taliban officials said the United States asked them to repair the runway at the Jalalabad airport so that fixed-wing aircraft could begin landing by Thursday. Pentagon officials said they knew of no plans to use the airport for offensive operations, although a small number of US Special Operations Forces are in that area working with opposition forces in the search for Bin Laden. *AP*

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US accuses Taliban of using human shields

KABUL—The United States has accused Taliban leaders of using civilians as human shields as relentless air raids take their toll on the southern city of Kandahar as well as suspected terrorist mountain hideouts in Afghanistan's rugged east.

Muslim activists in Egypt said the wife and three daughters of Osama bin Laden's top strategist, Ayman al-Zawahri, were killed in US bombing along with some relatives of other Arabs serving in Bin Laden's al-Qaida organization.

US officials believe al-Zawahari escaped, although unconfirmed reports claimed he had been wounded.

Al-Zawahri, an Egyptian physician who founded the Egyptian Islamic Jihad, is widely considered the No. 2 man in Bin Laden's network.

As bombing continued Wednesday, anti-Taliban fighters, mostly from local Pashtun tribes, pushed toward Kandahar, the Taliban's last major stronghold.

For weeks, US warplanes have bombed Kandahar in support of anti-Taliban attackers. Supreme Taliban leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar, has instructed his forces to fight to the death and has rejected repeated demands to surrender.

"Hiding in the city, the Taliban are in effect using the civilian population of Kandahar as shields," Rumsfeld said.

In the east, there were unconfirmed reports that said air strikes killed al-Qaida fighters around vast cave and tunnel networks in the White Mountains near the city of Jalalabad.

Mohammed Zaman, an anti-Taliban defense chief in Nangarhar province, claimed that bombing on Monday had killed Bin Laden's finance chief, known variously as Ali Mahmoud or Shaihk Saiid. The claim could not be independently verified.

On Tuesday, anti-Taliban troops hunting Bin Laden said they had clashed with an al-Qaida group near the fortified hideouts that are carved deep inside snowcapped mountains along the Pakistan border.

The skirmish was brief and no one was reported wounded from either side.

Provincial security chief Hazrat Ali said he was assembling a force of about 3,000 fighters to search for Bin Laden, who is accused by the United States of masterminding the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in Washington and New York.

Ali said days of intensive bombing have driven many al-Qaida personnel from their main Tora Bora cave complex and into the higher mountains, where they have split up into groups of as few as 10 men.

Some anti-Taliban officials have complained that their forces and civilians have been killed by US bombing based on mistaken intelligence. However, US officials maintain that the air strikes have hit only intended al-Qaida and Taliban targets.

Zaman estimated that as many as 1,200 al-Qaida fighters were hiding in the White Mountains, which includes Tora Bora, identified by Washington as a possible Bin Laden hiding place.

Emomali Rakhmonov, the president of neighboring Tajikistan, opened one of his nation's airfields to US and French planes for attacks within Afghanistan.

He said combat aircraft would use Kulyab airstrip, about 300 km south of Dushanbe, the Tajik capital, and 50 km north of the Afghan border, Russia's state-controlled ORT television reported.

Last month, Tajikistan offered three air bases to the US-led anti-terrorist coalition, but insisted they be used only for humanitarian operations, such as food drops.

Rakhmonov said Kulyab airfield would also be used by Russian military planes for the delivery of "military and humanitarian aid" to the Afghan people and to Russian border guards, who patrol the Tajik-Afghan border. *AP*

Pakistan to help CIA hunt for Bin Laden

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan—Pakistan has agreed to step up cooperation with the CIA in the hunt for Osama bin Laden, which is now centering on the rugged mountains along two countries' border, Pakistani intelligence officials said Tuesday.

The agreement followed meetings over the weekend with CIA Director George Tenet, who also urged Pakistan to crack down on religious schools seen as training grounds for Islamic militants.

US officials confirmed Tenet's visit but refused to discuss the content of his meetings.

Pakistani intelligence sources said on condition of anonymity that officials, including the president, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, told Tenet the government here would enhance cooperation with the CIA, joining the hunt for Bin Laden and giving American spies access to seven arrested members of Bin Laden's al-Qaida network currently held here.

In return, they said, Tenet said the United States would provide surveillance equipment.

Pakistan's intelligence agents, many of whom are of the Pashtun ethnic group that straddles the country's border with Afghanistan, have a larger presence in Afghanistan than anyone else. The United States considers their cooperation essential in tracking down Bin Laden and his al-Qaida network.

Despite Pakistan's support for the US-led war in Afghanistan, Pakistani spies said only a handful of Inter-Service Intelligence agents had been sharing information with their CIA counterparts.

The agency's director, Lt. Gen. Ehsanul Haq, told Tenet that would change, the officials said.

Haq told Tenet his agency would join the hunt for Bin Laden—possibly in joint operations with the CIA—and would increase security along the border to prevent the terrorist suspect from fleeing, they said.

The officials said Haq assured Tenet he would have access to seven men in Pakistani custody who have confessed to membership in al-Qaida, and to two retired nuclear scientists detained for their ties to Bin Laden.

But so far, neither the Pakistanis nor the Americans have specific information about the whereabouts of Bin Laden, the prime suspect in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, they said.

According to the officials, the last known whereabouts of Bin Laden were in the Kabul area before the Afghan capital fell. His wives and children were later spotted in Kandahar, but spies lost track of them after that. *AP*

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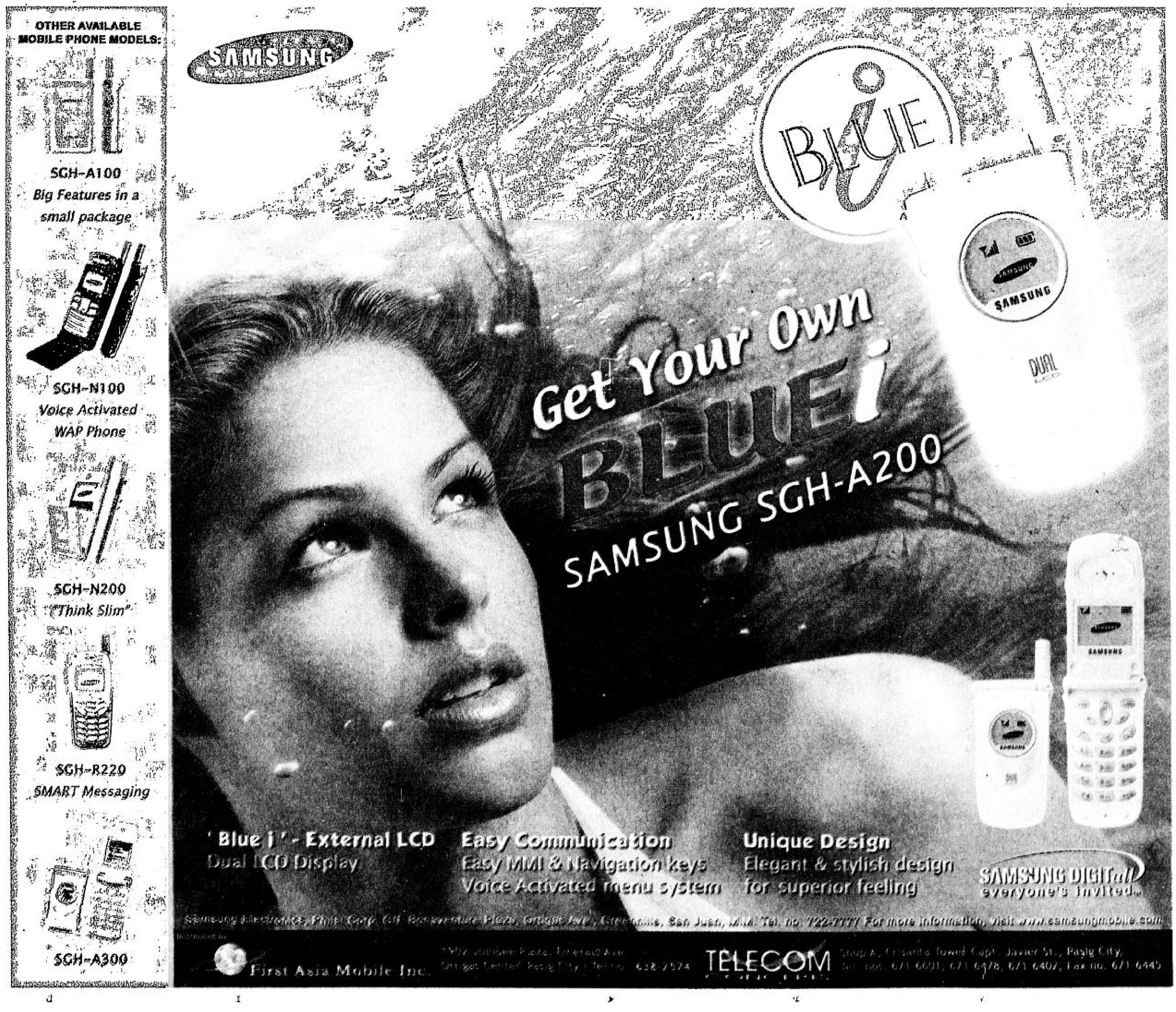
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Grenade fired at building with El Al office in Bangkok

BANGKOK—Assailants fired a rocket propelled grenade Wednesday at a multistory building in central Bangkok housing a ticketing office of the airline El Al, police said, though they doubted the Israeli carrier was the target.

There were no casualties but some damage to the façade of the 15-story Manorom Building on Rama IV road, one of the main thoroughfares of the Thai capital, said Lt. Gen. Anan Piromkaew, chief of the metropolitan police.

There were no immediate claims of responsibility.

Anan and other officials rejected suggestions that the attack was related to the deadly Israeli military strikes on Palestinian areas on Tuesday in retaliation for recent suicide bombings by Palestinian militants.

Anan said that a Lotus Tesco supermarket next door was probably the intended target.

Its stores in Thailand, partly owned by the British retailers Tesco, have been the target of a few other small bomb attacks this year, that have killed one person and injured several others.

The attacks are believed related to a business conflict over a contract to provide security for the chain. A Tesco spokesperson said he had not immediate comment on the police claims.

Police said residents heard a loud bang at 6:15 a.m. The timing of the attack ensured that the building was largely empty. Also, Wednesday is a national holiday to mark Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 74th birthday.

Anan said an abandoned anti-tank M-72 grenade launcher was found in a small lane near the building. The front of the building was covered with debris from the façade, mostly shattered glass and masonry.

He said the grenade hit the fourth floor, which contained the largely empty car park. El Al occupied an office on the 14th floor.

"There was no danger to life at anytime but it was probably meant just as a threat as it happened early in the morning," said Anan. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Shuttle launch delayed

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida—After yet another delay in the launch of space shuttle Endeavour, Nasa continued preparations for a launch to begin a mission to ferry a fresh crew to the international space station. Rain clouds over the launch pad scuttled Tuesday evening's attempt to send Endeavour and seven astronauts on their way. Nasa waited as long as possible before halting the countdown, conducted amid unprecedented security. Similar weather was expected Wednesday. "God's in control of the weather, we'll wait for him," commander Dominic Gorie said before crawling out of the shuttle cockpit. Endeavour was supposed to blast off last Thursday, but had to wait for the space station's residents to clear a jammed docking mechanism. Monday's spacewalking repairs allowed an unmanned Russian supply ship to finally latch itself firmly to the orbiting outpost. *AP*

Tamil voters blocked

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka—The Army blocked some 130,000 minority Tamil voters from reaching the polls on Wednesday, saying rebels among the crowds might disrupt the election of a new Parliament on this tropical island. The key issue for the 12.4 million eligible voters was whether to intensify the 18-year war that has killed more than 64,000 or seek peace with the country's guerrillas, fighting for a separate Tamil homeland. Five people were killed overnight and three others died in political violence during the voting Wednesday, bringing the number of election-related deaths to 50 since campaigning began on Oct. 21, independent poll observers said. The independent Center for Monitoring Election Violence said its monitors had reported: armed gangs stuffing ballot boxes, snatching polling cards, shooting at voters, threatening to kill poll observers and using vehicles to block roads in front of polls. *AP*

Brutal roadside slay

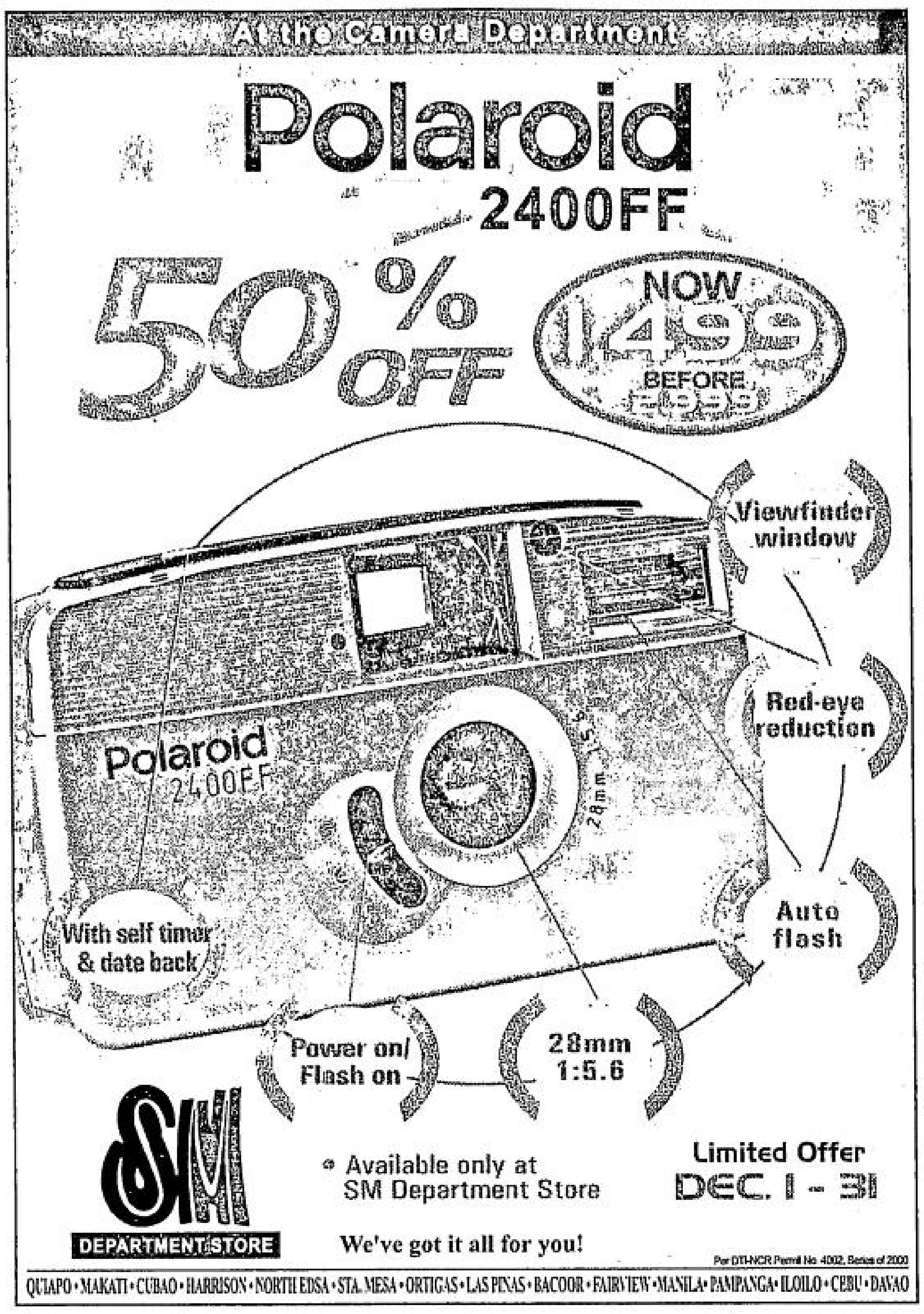
BOGOTA, Colombia—John Fredy Poveda, a 17-year-old engineering student, was heading to his mother's home in the mountains for the Christmas holidays when suspected paramilitary gunmen in ski masks stopped his bus on a remote road. He and 14 other travelers were forced out of the bus and made to lie down in a row on the pavement. The gunmen then shot each traveler—including engineers, school teachers and the bus driver—twice in the back of the head. Saturday's cold-blooded roadside slayings in central Boyaca state were brutal by even the cruel standards of Colombia's 37-year war—and belie recent claims by right-wing paramilitaries that they would no longer commit massacres. The United Self Defense Forces of Colombia, or AUC, and its leftist rebel foes have frequently murdered civilians suspected of collaborating with the other side. But this time, the victims were twelve men and three women with no apparent connection at all to the war. *AP*

Verdict postponed

JAKARTA—An Indonesian court postponed on Wednesday announcing its verdict on the multimillion-dollar corruption case against the head of the country's central bank. Court officials had initially said the verdict would be announced on Wednesday. However, the judge said he had decided to give the defense team more time to present its closing arguments. It is the second time the verdict has been postponed in two weeks. Defense lawyers said they did not expect the case to wrap until next year. The central bank's governor, Sjahril Sabirin, is accused of facilitating the transaction of the equivalent of $80 million in 1999 from the insolvent Bank Bali to a company closely linked to then-President B.J. Habibie's ruling Golkar Party. The funds were allegedly used to finance Habibie's 1999 election campaign. He was later disgraced and forced to drop out of the presidential race. *AP*

Modified mice

SINGAPORE—A Singapore scientist says he is setting up a company to use a patented, genetically modified strain of mice to test new drugs aimed at treating schizophrenia, Parkinson's disease and even cocaine addiction. Special genetic material inserted into the mouse's genes cause a "dopamine system" defect in the animal's brain, said Anil Kumar Ratty, whose Chakra Biotech patented the new strain of mouse. Dopamine is a neurotransmitter, or chemical that helps carry signals between brain cells. In Ratty's mice, the dopamine problem causes the animals to behave erratically. According to Ratty, the behavior is similar to that exhibited by people with a variety of neurological afflictions, including schizophrenia, Parkinson's disease, Tourette's syndrome and even cocaine addiction. *AP*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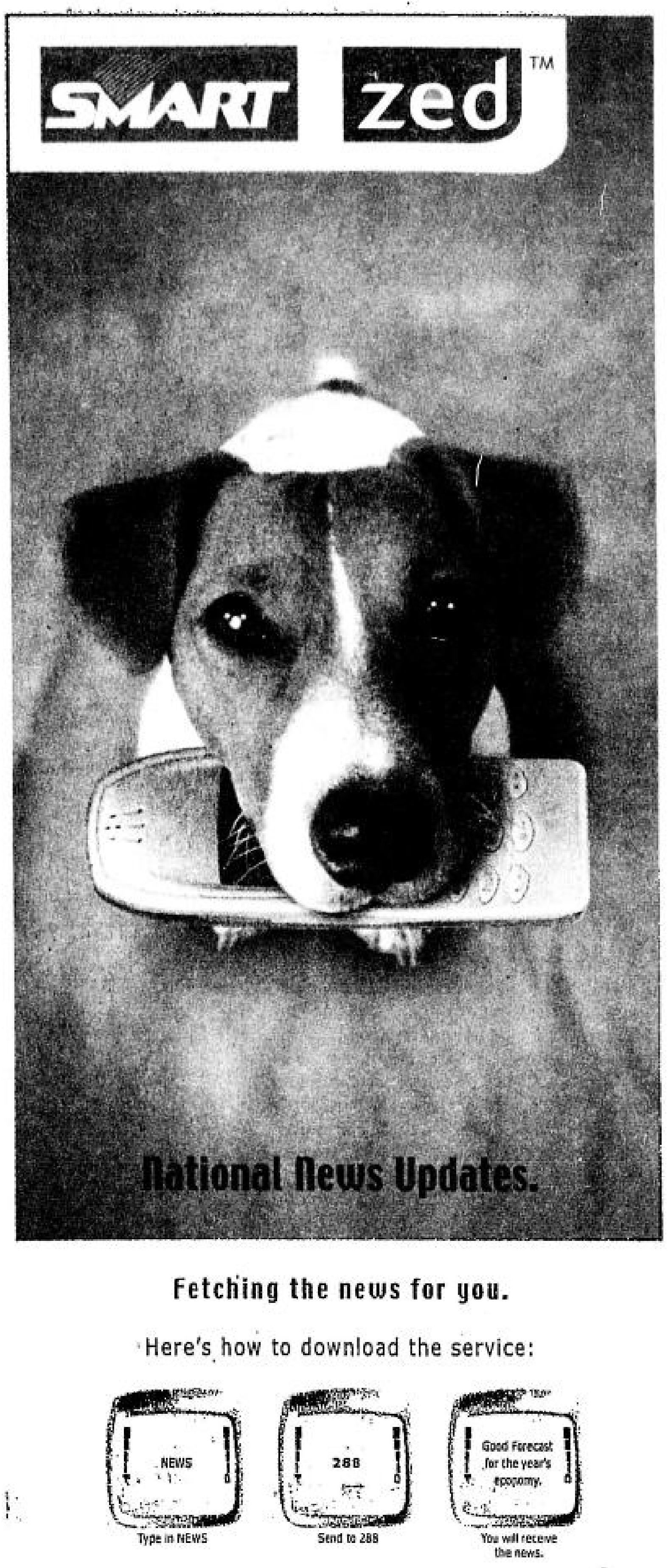
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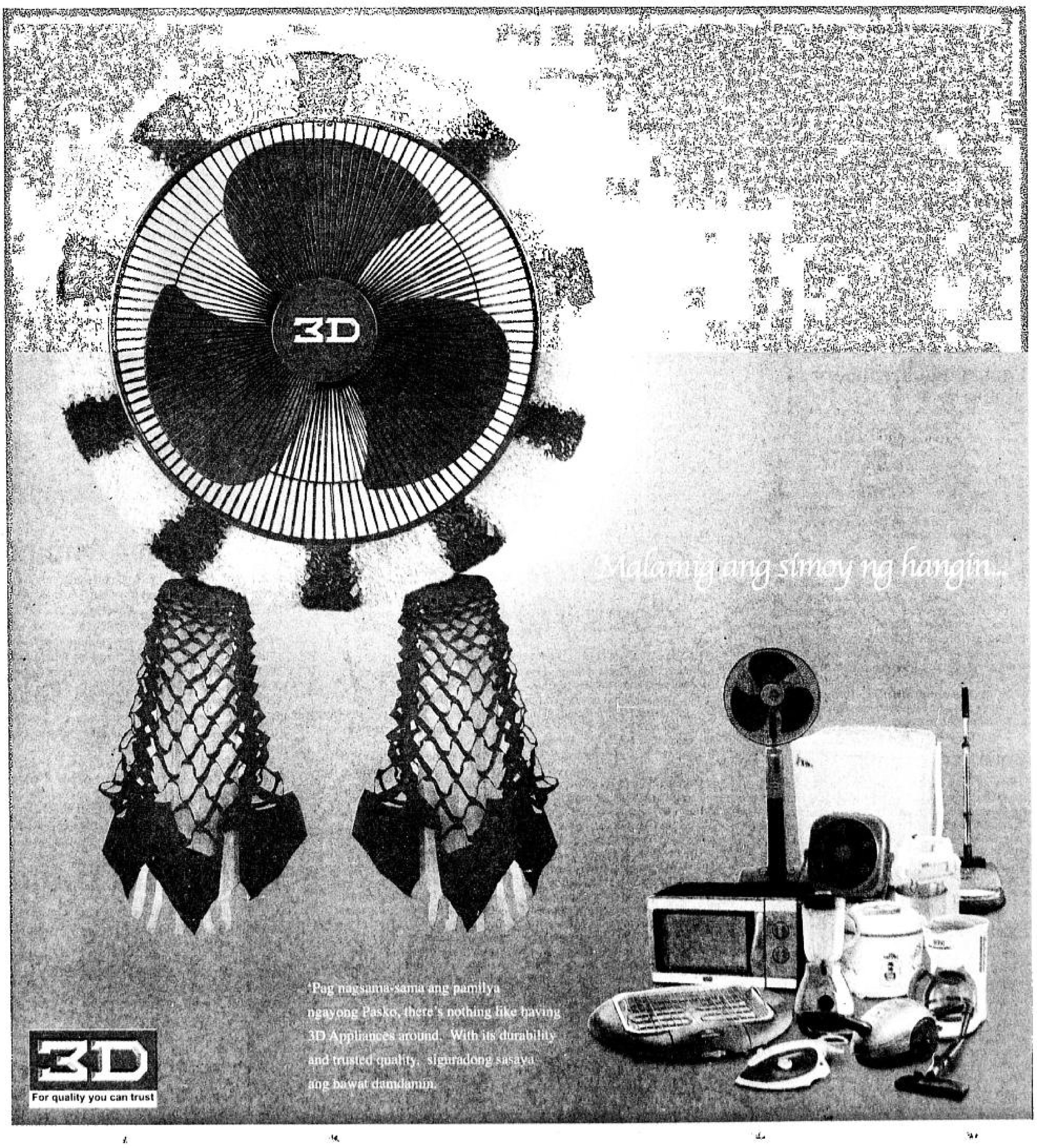
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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas provinces, Masbate and Romblon will experience stormy weather. Bicol region and Northern Mindanao will experience widespread rains and gusty winds. The rest of Southern Luzon, rest of Mindanao will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 25° Lo 14°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 19°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 21°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	HI 28° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Rains	HI 28° Lo 20°
Calapan	Rains	HI 29° Lo 20°
Bacolod	Rains	HI 30° Lo 21°
Roxas	Rains	HI 30° Lo 20°
Cebu	Stormy	HI 28° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Rains	HI 29° Lo 20°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/12/06/01

ROUNDUP

Preacher hurt in blast

DAVAO CITY—A woman preacher was wounded when a bomb exploded inside her church in Magnaga, Pantukan, Compostela Valley on Saturday, police said. Pastor Milagros de la Torre, 57, in charge of the Four Square Gospel Church here, suffered shrapnel wounds in the right foot. Police said De la Torre was inside the church around 10:30 p.m. when a motorcycle-riding suspect hurled an "improvised explosive device." Supt. Germelino Bermoy, Compostela Valley police director, said they are still trying to establish the motive for the attack. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

14 MILF rebels surrender

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—At least 14 members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front surrendered to the government on Saturday, the military said Tuesday. Casan Ibrahim of the MILF's 302nd Brigade based in Lanao del Sur surrendered to the 30th Infantry Battalion together with his members. They yielded three M-16 rifles, a 60-mm mortar and five .38 cal. pistols. MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu disowned the surrenderees saying Ibrahim and "his men were ordinary people in Lanao who have firearms." He said the military passed them off for MILF members to cash in on the government's anti-insurgency drive. *Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Fire razes LTO office

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Fire razed the registration division of the Land Transportation Office in Northern Mindanao and the adjacent room occupied by the Commission on Audit Monday dawn. The incident occurred as government auditors were conducting a fiscal audit of the LTO in preparation for the assumption of the new regional director. Lawyer Esteban Baltazar, LTO director, placed the damage at P1.5 million, excluding office equipment. *Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Tarlac cop shot dead

STA. IGNACIA, Tarlac—Suspected New People's Army rebels on Monday shot and killed a policeman in Barangay Caanamongan here. SPO1 Jose Fronda, 45, a member of the 312nd provincial police mobile group died from nine bullet wounds after three armed men shot him at close range, police said. Reports said the victim was planting rice in a field near his house when two of the suspects approached him. The other served as lookout. *Ronaldo Dizon, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Guard shot in robbery

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—A security guard was wounded after three men robbed a rural bank employee in the public market here on Monday. The robbers shot security guard Wilson Libuatan, 26, and snatched bags containing more than P131,000 from an employee of the Rural Bank and Money Shop branch here. Libuatan and the employee, whom police have yet to identify, came from their main office and had just alighted from a tricycle in front of the bank when the robbers struck. *Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

7 luxury cars seized

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE—Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority personnel seized on Saturday at least seven luxury cars after their importer allegedly violated import rules and laws. SBMA intelligence and investigation officials said Subic Acropolis Inc., a firm engaged in importation of used vehicles, tried but failed to take out seven highly-taxable Mitsubishi Pajero vans through the Cubi Point sentry. The SBMA legal department is now investigating the importer for misdeclaration of the vehicles after it declared the vehicles as "utility vans." *Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

4 men shoot family

LEGAZPI CITY—A man died while his wife and daughter were seriously wounded when four armed men shot them Sunday evening in Barangay Himagtocon, Lagonoy, Camarines Sur. Police identified the victim as Eddie Ortenero, 42. His wife Mely, 40, and daughter Maribel, 16, are in critical condition at a hospital. The survivors identified one of the suspects as Felix Remoto, who is still at large. The victims were on their way home aboard a pedicab when waylaid. *Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Escapee shot dead

NAGA CITY—A captured escapee from the Tinangis Penal Farm in Pili, Camarines Sur was shot dead Sunday after he tried to grab the .37 mm pistol of a police officer while on board a police service vehicle. Jail warden Gilbert Tapel said Wilfredo Buquid, a prisoner who escaped last Sept. 22, was accidentally hit by a bullet in the left jaw while grappling with him for the gun. Tapel said the incident happened when the police service vehicle stopped at San Fernando town where two police escorts urinated. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Visayas braces for new storm

CEBU CITY—More than 50 vessels, fastcraft and motorboats were not allowed to sail since Tuesday night in the different ports of Cebu City, Mandaue City, Toledo City, Danao City, Camotes, Bantayan Island, Argao and Santander because of Typhoon Quedan.

Cebu province was put under storm signal No. 2 as of yesterday noon, according to the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

Only five vessels were allowed to sail last Tuesday night since they exceed the 1,000 gross tonnage limit.

These were the Our Lady of Manaoag for Nasipit, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel for Ozamis, Our Lady of Good Voyage for Cagayan de Oro City, Filipinas-Iloilo for Dumaguete City and MV Trans Asia for Cagayan de Oro City.

But according to Petty Officer Virgilio Tibayan of the Cebu Coast Guard station, these vessels would not be allowed to go back to Cebu last night because it was among the areas under signal No. 2.

Other areas where travel by sea was suspended were Samar, Leyte, Masbate, Surigao, Singoog City, Biliran, Negros, Siquijor and Bohol.

But Tibayan said only a few passengers were stranded at the port since most of the passengers opted to go back home.

As of yesterday afternoon, the Coast Guard has yet to receive reports of accidents at sea caused by the storm.

The city and provincial disaster and coordinating council convened yesterday in preparation for evacuations or rescue of typhoon victims.

Officials had asked residents who lived near the riverbanks to evacuate in case of floodings and landslides.

Several classes of elementary and high school were suspended yesterday noon.

In Tacloban City, classes in elementary and high school were suspended and people living in low-lying areas and near mountain slopes in the city and nearby towns were told to evacuate to safer grounds yesterday as Typhoon Quedan was to hit Leyte last night.

People living in flood prone and mountainous areas were warned of possible flash floods and landslides.

Typhoon signal No. 2 was hoisted yesterday over Southern Leyte, Leyte, Biliran, Samar, Eastern and Northern Samar.

It was also raised yesterday in Romblon, Masbate, Northern Cebu and Bantayan Island, Northern Negros, Northern Panay, Dinagat and Siargao Island where moderate to heavy rains and winds up to 65 kph were also experienced.

Typhoon Quedan was expected to hit this city yesterday evening as it crosses the northern part of Leyte and moves toward Panay, moving close to northern Cebu.

The typhoon, which is packing winds of up to 75 km per hour near the center and gustiness of up to 90 kph, was yesterday expected to move at 15 kph to the Samar-Leyte area.

Intermittent heavy rains coupled with strong winds were experienced yesterday in this city. Seacrafts were advised not to travel because of the very rough seas.

A school official here said that classes are automatically suspended under typhoon signal No. 2. Flights, however, were not cancelled and only a few of the city streets were flooded despite the intermittent rains. There were also no power outages as of late afternoon yesterday.

Geneva Calejan, assistant regional director of the Office of Civil Defense in Eastern Samar, told the INQUIRER that the disaster councils from the municipal up to the regional levels have been earlier alerted of the typhoon and are now reactivated.

Calejan said that at the regional level, the disaster council has 249 sacks of rice and other foodstuff ready for distribution in case of relief operation.

It was learned that the Leyte disaster coordinating council has sent at least 14 teams to different low lying-areas of the province to monitor flash floods and typhoon damages. *Jhunnex Napallacan and Vicente Labro, PDI Visayas Bureau*

SALES PITCH BEN MOSES EBREO

Vendors of dried fish in La Union approach motorists and commuters with smiles on their faces in a bid to sell their products.

Tension in Laguna town continues

MABITAC, Laguna—The successor of slain Mayor Bernardo "Bombet" Sayarot yesterday appealed for a swift investigation of Sarayot's case by the police or the National Bureau of Investigation as he claimed that tension still exists in his hometown.

"We will continue to live in uncertainty and fear, and our town will remain in an atmosphere of insecurity if the real masterminds of the brutal murder of the former mayor and his companions remains unsolved," Mayor Apollo Aguilar told the INQUIRER.

Killed with Sayarot on Oct. 29 was his driver Gabriel Fuentes and Teresa traffic policeman SPO2 Eduardo Seña.

He said he "had to request for security because things are not yet back to normal."

But he said he has to do his job as the new mayor as best as he can amid an atmosphere of restlessness due to the former mayor's violent demise.

Aguilar recently announced through the media that a P1.5 million reward would be given to anyone who could give information or help in the arrest of suspects Benito Mongkada and Luisito San Juan.

The mayor also expressed his pleasure on the offer of Police Provincial Director Supt. Leon Nilo de la Cruz to establish another police post in Mabitac to strengthen its existing police force.

The local police office has assigned a police team in Sayarot's village, Barangay Paagahan, to ensure the peace and order in the area.

Aguilar said several individuals have already submitted information concerning the suspects but they needed more corroborative evidences.

Sayarot's first cousin Fr. Edgardo Consignado has appealed to authorities to do their job of investigating fully every angle of his slain cousin's murder.

"A case against the suspects has already been submitted to the courts. I guess it is now the job of the investigating officers to dig deep into the core of the case," he said.

"I am taking extra precautions to prevent further violent acts of betrayal by those who have evil motives against our family," Consignado said.

Municipal administrator Norberto Tubaña told the INQUIRER that the recent visit of Police Regional Director Chief Supt. Domingo Reyes, together with a team of police officers in the town, must have pleased the residents as it served as a psychological boost to the local police.

He said Reyes congratulated those police elements who had risked their lives in arresting at least some of the suspects in the murder of Sayarot and slain parish priest Fr. Arsenio "Jun" Plata Jr. *Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

GenSan dentists, docs fight back

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Members of the General Santos City Medical and Dental Society here yesterday started a three-day boycott in protest of the recent kidnapping of Dr. Josefina Montecillo.

Around 60 medical and dental practitioners here signed the manifesto declaring their vehement protest against the kidnapping of Montecillo.

Medical and dental clinics of the officers and members of the General Santos City Medical and Dental Society were closed since yesterday.

Montecillo, 63, was kidnapped by armed men on Saturday evening. She was released three days after. The family of the victim and the police claimed that no ransom was paid in exchange for Montecillo's release.

Their friends and the people could not believe that the Montecillos, who have been known for their kindness, simplicity and compassion for the poor, will be subjected to such an ordeal, an excerpt of the medical practitioners' manifesto stated.

"This is (kidnapping) a shameless, dastardly and condemnable act. It is for certain that these kidnappers will strike again. We will take it upon ourselves to ensure that we and our loved ones are safe and far from harm. In so doing, we may not be able to attend to the medical needs of the good people of General Santos City."

Mayor Pedro Acharon Jr. has vowed to conduct an investigation of how the kidnappers were able to enter the city despite tight security measures imposed by both the police and the military.

Acharon tried to persuade the officials of the medical and dental society here to forego with their plan to boycott, but his appeal fell on deaf ears.

Councilor Franklin Gacal Jr. told the INQUIRER that the doctors and dentists here were just exercising their right to redress of grievances.

But Gacal said the doctors and the dentists could be answerable to their conscience for what they did, as they have a code to follow, especially in ensuring the medical welfare of the public.

"In protest of this recent increase in the rate of kidnappings, we close our clinics on Dec. 5, 6, 7, 2001. We appeal to our patients and the general public to be one with us in condemning further kidnappings," the manifesto declared. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Feud seen behind Clark landfill review

CAPAS, Tarlac—Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez has ordered a review of the environmental clearance certificate that was issued to the Clark sanitary landfill two weeks before the ouster of former President Joseph Estrada early this year.

Alvarez's action, however, is reportedly tied to his ongoing feud with Assistant Secretary Peter Abaya, former director of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), a source at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Central Luzon claimed.

Alvarez on Wednesday sent Julian Amador, director of the EMB, to begin the review. Albert Magalang, executive director of the National Solid Waste Management Commission, assisted Amador.

Amador's team of five EMB personnel interviewed leaders and residents in Sitio Cutcut in Barangay Kalangitan here, where the Clark Development Corp. and the German company Ingenieurburo Birkhahn+Nolte, under a $180-million joint venture, are going to build the 100-hectare facility.

According to the venture's environmental impact statement, the landfill would only accommodate waste from Clark, Tarlac and Pampanga, Amador said.

Former Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles issued the ECC for the Clark integrated solid waste management system on Jan. 11 or nine days before People Power II forced Estrada to leave Malacañang.

Right after Estrada's ouster, a former CDC official privy to the project confirmed that Estrada intervened in the "hasty issuance" of the ECC in a bid to offer an alternative dump for Metro Manila's garbage.

The source said German landfill experts and advisers were opposed to the proposal of maintaining an open dump, saying this was going to ruin the "company's good reputation" in the European technical community.

Alvarez accused Abaya, who was EMB, director then, of allowing the over-importation of ozone-depleting substances. Abaya denied this and has staunchly opposed the confirmation of Alvarez.

Amador declined to comment on the motive of Alvarez in ordering the review.

But he confirmed that the secretary wanted to validate the conditions imposed in the ECC because it was "issued toward Estrada's ouster."

The ECC set 15 conditions that are also bases for suspension, cancellation or penalty of P50,000 if any or all terms were violated.

The requirement on social acceptability appeared not to have been fully satisfied, with a team member finding it unusual that CDC and its German partner are still holding information dissemination activities up to the time of the review, it was learned.

Some local officials also complained of not being informed about the current status of the project.

The construction of the landfill was expected to start this week after 19 farming families agreed to leave the site, which is within the special economic zone.

Juan Miguel Fuentes, chief of the CDC environmental management department, said there was "no shortcut" in the issuance of the controversial ECC. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Armed men demand funds from traders

BAGUIO CITY—Armed men in military uniform, who claimed to be members of the Cordillera People's Liberation Army, have been pressuring Baguio businessmen since Friday to bankroll the training of the militia's recruits, police reports said.

Three of them entered several establishments here on Sunday and Monday to collect "donations," according to an employee of a drugstore.

The men were following up solicitation letters they had given to establishments on Session Road here. The letters explained the requests as training funds for the CPLA's Delta Company.

The solicitation letters were signed by Aurelio Kigis, Victorino Watil and Selwart Fulgaon, who was described as the company commander and training officer. The letters were accompanied by a Nov. 26 endorsement from the city government.

A CPLA faction led by Mayor Mailed Molina of Bucloc, Abra, disowned the letter in a Sunday press conference arranged by the military's Civil Relations Service at Camp Allen here.

This faction had successfully negotiated the integration this year of 264 CPLA men and the absorption of several others into the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Units (Cafgu) for the Cordillera.

Maj. Elmer Quiros, CRS group commander here, said the CPLA integration had already been budgeted next year on the strength of Administrative Order 18 signed in Kalinga by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

But the reports had prompted Baguio councilors to review a 1999 resolution banning the CPLA from the city.

The office of the city secretary said the resolution was still in force. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Blast hits Bacolod subdivision

BACOLOD CITY—A bomb exploded on a street of a subdivision in a village here early Tuesday, damaging at least 10 houses.

The bomb was planted on the gates of the Pilar Amechazura Palmares on De la Rama Street in the City Heights Subdivision in Barangay Taculing.

Denny Montoya, Bacolod police bomb expert, said the explosion occurred 3 a.m.

Montoya said police found two fuses on De la Rama Street. The fuses were similar to those used in a bomb that ripped through the Bacolod City police office early this year.

Supt. Amado Marquez Jr., Bacolod police chief, said the suspects had no intention of harming anyone. They just wanted to scare.

Montoya said the explosion's damage was so extensive that the suspects must have a military background.

Ceilings, windows, and vehicles near the explosion site were destroyed.

Police said the target was a house with a green gate but there are at least three houses in the area with green gates.

Junelle Asetre, a resident, said he heard the sound of motorcycles passing through the street where the bomb exploded.

Police said the suspects were riding on a motorcycle. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

IRRI hit for 'theft' of Thai rice variety

By Dennis A. Maliwanag
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—The International Rice Research Institute is in hot water after it was discovered that it has shipped farmers' rice seeds from its gene bank here to researchers in the United States without the required transfer accord.

The discovery last September of IRRI's "improper release" of Jasmine rice samples has caused an uproar among civil society groups worldwide and has compelled Thailand's Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra to order legal action against the US research project.

Filipino farmers' groups assailed the IRRI when it gave Jasmine rice seeds to American scientist Dr. Neil Rutger without the required Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) to guarantee that the seeds will not be patented.

But IRRI spokesperson Duncan McIntosh countered that "there was very little that was improper about the distribution of the Jasmine rice sample involved and certainly nothing that would question IRRI's integrity."

In January 1995, IRRI sent Rutger of the University of Arkansas several samples of Thai Jasmine rice without an MTA.

"It was a personal request," IRRI explained.

Through mutation breeding, University of Florida breeder Dr. Chris Deren, with whom Rutger then shared the seeds, is transforming Jasmine to produce strains he hopes will be grown commercially in the US—an action that could hurt Thailand's export economy.

Thailand exports 1.2 million tons of Jasmine rice for about $6 billion each year. One-third of that goes to the United States alone.

Thai farmers

The five million Jasmine rice farmers in Thailand depend heavily on the crop for their meager $200 monthly income.

"The Thai farmers' loss of control over Jasmine rice is an alarm bell for Filipino farmers," said Abigail Verdillo, advocacy officer of the group Magsasaka at Siyentipiko para sa Pag-unlad ng Agrikultura.

In a rally here last Thursday, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas chair Rafael Mariano said this was a "clear indication of theft" as he and other farmers' groups expressed fears over the safety of Philippine aromatic rice varieties in IRRI custody.

Collected from the world's rice paddies since 1960s, IRRI has in its gene bank today more than 90,000 distinct strains of rice, most of them developed by Asian farmers.

Betrayal

"IRRI has claimed that it will make sure no one gets intellectual property over these materials, but it has betrayed us," Verdillo said.

Under an October 1994 trusteeship agreement negotiated with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, IRRI committed to regulate the distribution of rice samples from its gene bank through an MTA.

This MTA prohibits the recipient and any third parties from claiming intellectual property rights on the seeds.

Dr. Edwin Javier, acting head of IRRI's Genetic Resources Center, said the seeds were released without an MTA because a model agreement was not drafted until August 1995. ***With a report from Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Bird last seen 87 yrs ago reappears

By J. Cataluña
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BASCO, Batanes—Villagers saw an endangered black-faced spoonbill (*Platalea minor*) at Barangay Savidug in the island town of Sabtang on Nov. 21.

The spoonbill, which is listed as one of the 550 species left in the wild in the world, is a rare migratory wading bird. It was reportedly last seen in the Philippines 87 years ago.

Alexander Binalon, a park ranger, confirmed the villagers' report when he saw the rare bird and took its pictures on a beach in Savidug.

According to the Protected Areas Wildlife Bureau, the spoonbill breeds during winter on small rocky islands in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Vietnam, China, Japan and Korea.

The spoonbill is a white wading bird with a long neck and long back bill flattened at the end like a broad spoon. It has a bare black skin from the base of the bill to just behind the eye.

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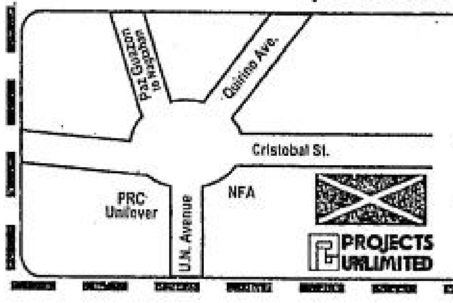

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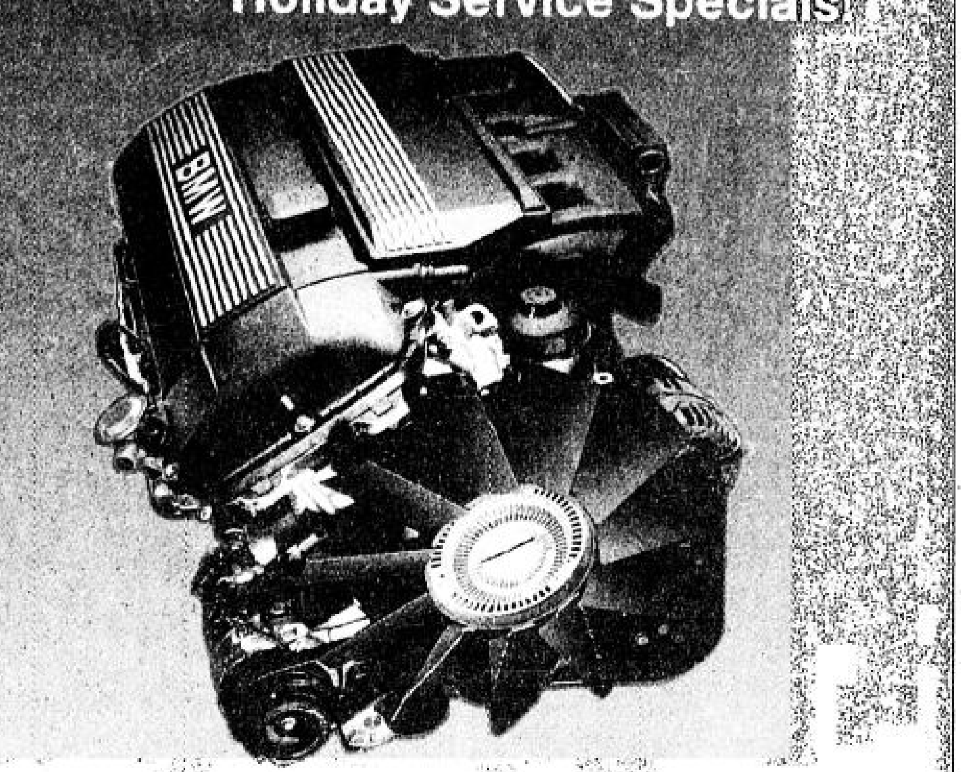

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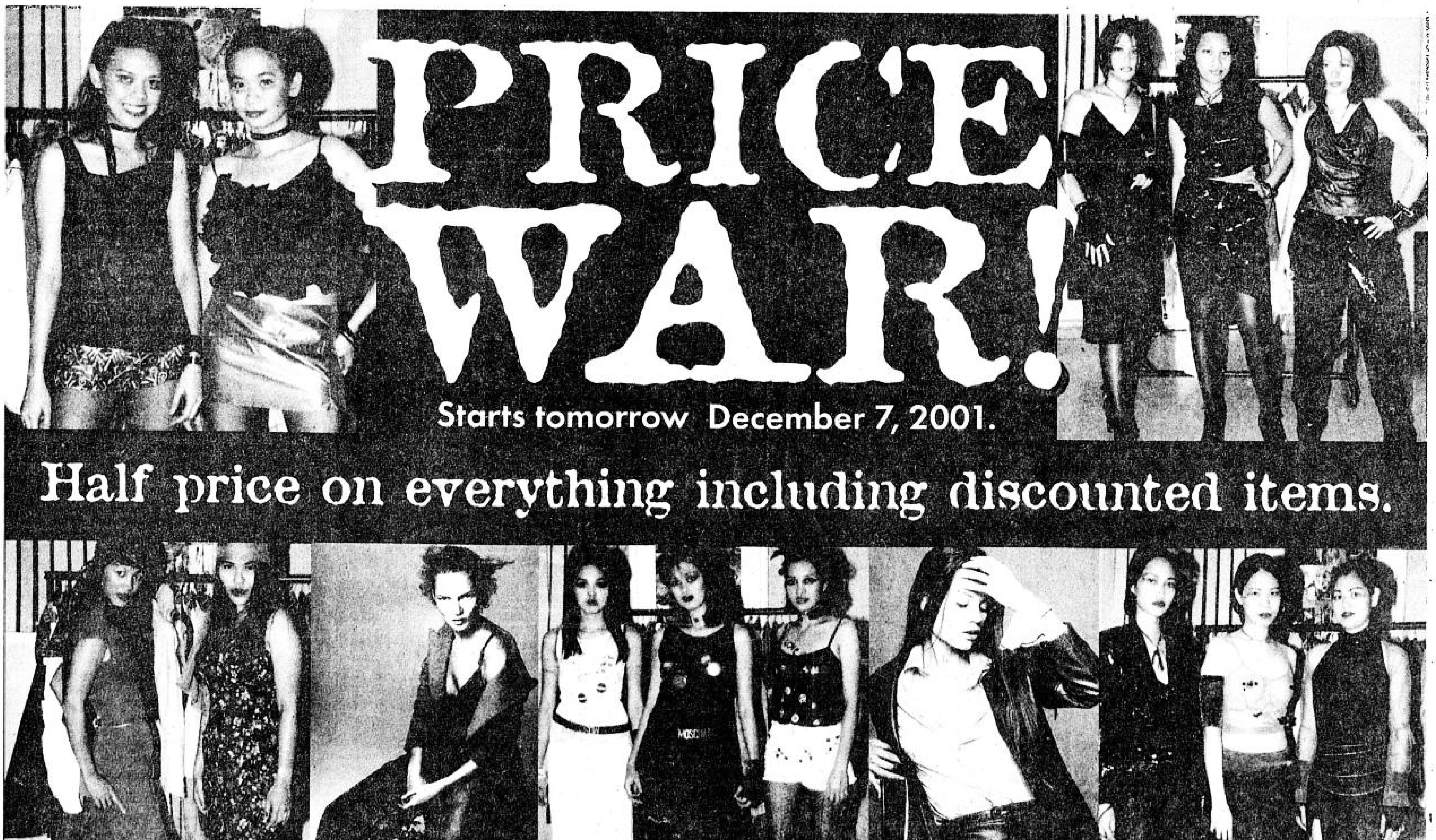
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4180, Series of 2001

Farmers split over coco levy compromise agreement

(From page A1)

and Lobregat, who are the root cause of this problem," he said. Faustino was referring to Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., chair of San Miguel Corp., and Ma. Clara Lobregat, mayor of Zamboanga City and head of the Philippine Federation of Coconut Producers (Cocofed).

Cojuangco and Lobregat pushed for the settlement that several farmers' groups and Cocofed signed on Oct. 28 in Davao City.

The deal seeks to unfreeze the sequestered P50 billion that the Coconut Industry Investment Fund invested in 27 to 31 percent of San Miguel so that the money could be put into a perpetual trust fund. The 20 percent of San Miguel controlled by Cojuangco was not part of the deal although it was also bought using coco levy funds.

Under the settlement, coconut farmers will get 40 percent of the interest earnings of the perpetual fund, the government 25 percent, and Cocofed 20 percent. Fifteen percent goes back to the trust fund.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), which sequestered the CIIF shares in San Miguel, called the deal illegal and immoral as it would not benefit the small coconut farmers but Cojuangco and Lobregat.

Villaseñor, a PKSMMN representative, said he was challenging those opposing the compromise agreement to suggest alternative ways for the immediate and just resolution of the coco levy issue.

"To die of hunger due to widespread poverty, dislocation of coconut farmers and workers and the collapse of the industry is more illegal and immoral," Villaseñor said.

Court settlement costly

"A court settlement is too costly, and is a slow and long process," he said.

Villaseñor, also a director of the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), described the compromise deal as a "negotiated justice."

He said the compromise deal was not good as dead despite the PCGG position against it, saying there are ways to resolve the issue other than through the PCGG.

"We can go to the courts, to Congress," he said. "The PCGG is not the only way."

Faustino said there was a strong sentiment among coconut farmers that Villaseñor was being used by Cojuangco to sow division among coconut farmers so as to weaken efforts to recover the coco levy fund in favor of the farmers.

"We are wondering why the PKSMMN and Villaseñor were opposed to Estrada's Executive Order 313 before, but they are now supporting a compromise deal that is no different from the EO," Faustino said. Both the COIR and PKSMMN were co-petitioners in a motion seeking to declare EO 313 unconstitutional.

In a statement, Kilos-Saka also assailed "the divide-and-rule tactic of Danding that stirs conflict between and among the ranks of the farmers."

Villaseñor decried the accusations against him as black propaganda from quarters, which, he said, still have "hatred in their hearts."

"If you remain in that framework, you will not grow," he said. "We must elevate the level of debate and not attack personalities."

Sought for comment on allegations that he was collaborating with Cojuangco, Villaseñor said: "I have already forgiven them in the name of national reconciliation, peace and development for the sake of our coconut farmers."

Asked if that meant he believed Cojuangco had sinned against coconut farmers, Villaseñor said that was the prevailing public perception. "I have no baggage that's why I can talk objectively," he said.

No Mercedez

Villaseñor also belied charges that he had been paid P2 million to rally coconut farmers behind the compromise deal. He said he should be driving a Mercedes Benz by now.

"Look, I still take the bus from my home in Quezon," he said.

Datu Benjie Andoy of the Coconut Peasant Reform Alliance (Copra), a PKSMMN member, lamented that other farmers groups were the ones standing in the way for the expeditious release of the coco levy funds.

"They are pushing us to a revolution. If they have something against the President, they should not hold us hostage," Andoy said. "The issue is becoming more political," he added.

Villaseñor said PKSMMN members in coconut-producing provinces would hold protest rallies in the coming days to push for a negotiated settlement to the coco levy issue.

Faustino said that move was expected.

"We know they will not let go of this. They will mobilize people to put up a semblance of a popular clamor for a settlement," Faustino said.

Vic Fabe, national chair of the Pambansang Kilusang ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (Pakisama) which has aligned itself with Kilos-Saka, called on legitimate farmers organizations to form a "people's formula."

"We should not leave the fate of the coco levy in the hands of Villaseñor and Cocofed. They are peasant leaders who have sold the interest of the farmers to Cojuangco," Fabe said.

He called on Ms Macapagal to:

- Appeal to the Supreme Court and Sandiganbayan to rule on the petitions of the farmers, PCGG and Office of the Solicitor General on coco levy-related cases;
- Certify as urgent House Bill No. 4000, an act reaffirming the public character of the coco levy funds and rationalizing their use, and House Bill No. 4001 which seeks to develop the coconut industry;
- Listen to the PCGG and OSG on matters involving the coco levy issue and ignore her "political advisers" who peddled the lopsided compromise; and
- Institute an interim measure to help the impoverished coconut farmers with or without the levy.

Fabe suggested that a series of consultations be called to draft a people's formula without undermining the position taken by the PCGG.

Militant farmers sector, represented by the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), said the interim formula seeking to release a portion of the P130 billion in coconut levy fund being considered by the PCGG was a virtual recognition of Cojuangco's rights over the fund.

"The interim formula virtually recognize that Cojuangco has the so-called rights to the coconut levy funds. Any kind of interim formula in the context of a compromise settlement with Cojuangco cannot be called a victory for small coconut farmers," said KMP chair Rafael Mariano.

"This proposal (interim formula) is only one of the maneuvers of the Macapagal administration which aims to pacify the peasantry's growing struggle for the immediate return of the coco levy funds to its real owners," Mariano said.

He said what was needed was a permanent solution to coco levy controversy.

"A permanent solution must be based on the recognition that the coco levy funds were collected and extracted from small coconut farmers in a form of tax," he said.

But the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference expressed support for the "interim formula" of the PCGG that would allow coconut farmers to get funds from the coco levy directly.

BBC chair Jose Concepcion Jr., said that the government should push for a way that would let small coconut farmers, even those who do not belong to any organization, to benefit from the P50 billion in coco levy trust fund if this would be set up later. *With a report from Donna Cueto*

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4184 Series of 2001

PCGG to sue 5 overstaying Erap men in SMC

By Donna S. Cueto

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government yesterday said that it would file criminal charges with the Office of the Ombudsman against five "overstaying" nominees of former President Joseph Estrada to the board of directors of the San Miguel Corp., including his controversial brother-in-law Raul de Guzman.

PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza said that the five nominees—De Guzman, Benjamin Paulino, Esperidion Laxa, Hermogenes Tantoco and Allan Lee—had been sitting illegally on the SMC board, supposedly representing the PCGG, when they had no authority from the PCGG to do so.

"They claim to have been nominated by the PCGG. They were not," Carranza said in a statement.

"In truth, they were nominees of deposed President Joseph Estrada. They were nominated by Estrada in 2000 and he nominated them again for 2001 just before he was forced to resign from office," he said.

De Guzman is the chair of the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation. Tantoco is the husband of Justa Tantoco, chief of staff of former First Lady Loi Ejercito. Lee is reportedly the business partner of Guia Gomez, a mistress of Estrada, according to the PCGG.

Laxa is a movie producer allegedly associated with the former President. Paulino is allegedly from the Philippine School of Business Administration.

The five Estrada nominees are covered by the special provisions of Executive Order Nos. 1, 2 and 14 governing the PCGG's power of sequestration.

Carranza explained that the SMC management under businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. refused to recognize the list of nominees sent by President Macapagal-Arroyo through the PCGG, claiming that the period for nomination had lapsed on Jan. 20, 2001.

"But we all know what happened on Jan. 20. At noon of that day, Chief Justice Hilario Davide was administering the oath of office on President Macapagal-Arroyo," Carranza said.

He said that De Guzman and the four other Estrada nominees were only sitting in the San Miguel board because Cojuangco's lawyers led by Estelito Mendoza had let them.

"They cannot legally represent the PCGG. Without the PCGG's nomination, they cannot stay on the SMC board," Carranza said.

Last April, the PCGG filed a petition with the Supreme Court to annul the election of the Estrada nominees to the SMC board.

The PCGG has repeatedly asked the five nominees, through official communication, to resign from their posts so that the nominees of the present administration could take over.

But the five refused to do so.

Now, Carranza said, the PCGG would seek their criminal prosecution.

Under Article 237 of the Revised Penal Code, the act of "prolonging performance of duties and powers" is punishable with a maximum of almost two years' imprisonment.

The SMC directors nominated by the PCGG are public officers because they perform the PCGG's legal duty to preserve sequestered assets while litigation is pending.

The nominees of Ms Macapagal are former Social Security System president Renato Valencia, former Far East Bank president OV Espiritu, former justice Hector Hofilena, Franklin Fuentebella and Leo Alvez.

A PCGG source said that the Estrada nominees had been acting more in concert with Cojuangco, instead of acting on behalf of the government.

Money woes . . .

(From page A1)

by the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines.

"This is the economic reality. Job security, I am sure, is contributing to the increase in suicides," he said, citing Japan as an example, where the unemployment rate hit a record high of 5.3 percent in September.

Apart from unemployment, suicide rates in the region are spiraling also because of a worsening in family and community bonds, he explained.

Among Asian countries facing serious economic problems are Japan, Singapore and Taiwan, all of which are already in recession.

Hong Kong, Malaysia and several other nations in the region are also expected to post negative growth this year.

Asked whether he could give a projected percentage increase in suicides in the region due to the economic problems, Omi said: "I have no figure but I am sure it will go up because of the rapid social economic changes.

"We cannot stop it, it will go on," he added.

According to the WHO, there are already 1,100 reported suicides every day in the 37 countries comprising the Western Pacific region. But actual figures for the region may be 20 times higher because many cases go unreported.

The WHO Western Pacific region comprises Australia, Brunei, China, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam and several Pacific islands.

According to a WHO report, suicide has reached epidemic proportions in Micronesia and Samoa among young men aged 15-24. The rate in the early 1960s of 10 per 100,000 population had seen a 16-fold increase from 1988-1990 (160 per 10,000). The rise has been attributed to rapid social change and an erosion of traditional cultural activities and structures which used to help guide young men through the transition to adulthood.

Worldwide, suicide is now considered a major public health problem. The suicide rate is almost universally higher among men than among women—a ratio of 3.5 to 1. **AFP**

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1 dead, 3 hurt in another suicide attack

(From page A1)

to clear up.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. The military wing of the Islamic group Hamas said it carried out the weekend suicide attacks in Jerusalem and the northern port city of Haifa, and has vowed to continue such attacks.

Israel blamed Palestinian President Yasser Arafat for all the recent bombings because he has failed to rein in militants.

"I see the Palestinian Authority as responsible for what happened here because its role under peace deals is to fight terror and they are not fighting terror," Israeli foreign ministry official Gideon Meir said.

Palestinian officials deny Arafat is to blame and say Israel's military retaliation amounts to a declaration of war.

Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo said Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's motive was to torpedo Palestinian efforts to create an independent state.

"This is a war against Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian Authority and not against terror," Abed Rabbo said.

Labor Party

Israel's military strikes in the past two days have deepened a rift in Sharon's coalition government over how to handle the 14-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and other ministers from the center-left Labor Party walked out of a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday and the party was due to meet on Wednesday to consider its future in the government.

In the fiercest Israeli attacks since the conflict began, warplanes and helicopter gunships attacked targets across the West Bank and Gaza on Tuesday, firing one missile just meters away from Arafat's West Bank office while he was inside.

Arafat was not hurt but a 15-year-old bystander and a policeman were killed in Gaza and dozens were wounded.

The latest violence has undermined a new US peace mission launched last week by former Marine Corps Gen. Anthony Zinni.

Washington wants peace in the Middle East so it can cement Arab support for its war against terrorism.

A spokesperson of the US Department of State said Zinni would stay in the region "at this point" to try to arrange a ceasefire.

The United States and Canada on Tuesday froze the assets of three groups that they said were linked to Hamas.

Israeli newspapers reported Sharon had promised US President George W. Bush in a White House meeting on Sunday that Israel would not personally harm Arafat.

"I promised Bush I wouldn't touch Arafat, but I can get close to him," the Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper quoted Sharon as telling his Cabinet in a meeting on Tuesday that branded the Palestinian Authority a "terror-supporting entity."

Continuous attacks

Israeli air operations were halted overnight as a storm swept through the region, but troops remained in positions on the outskirts of Palestinian cities and towns.

Lending fresh US support to Israel's military retaliation, Bush said US allies had an obligation to help bring "terrorists to justice if we want peace in the Middle East."

Raanan Gissin, a spokesperson for Sharon, said Israel was prepared to launch an even tougher campaign unless the Palestinian Authority reined in militants.

"If Arafat and the Palestinian Authority take no action, you are going to see . . . continuous attacks that will be every day, every two days," Gissin told Reuters on Tuesday.

"Every place we find terrorists we will attack. It could be day or night, by land, by air, by sea."

Palestinian officials say police have moved swiftly to arrest militants since the weekend bombings—despite public opposition—but complain that Israeli attacks hamper their efforts to crack down. Israel says the detentions are a sham.

At least 746 Palestinians and 222 Israelis have been killed since the Palestinian uprising began in September 2000. *Reuters*

fares to remember

ORIGIN: MANILA

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
CEBU	5J - 557	Daily	0130	0240	P2,608	P2,309	P1,999
	5J - 559	Daily	0500	0610			
	5J - 561	Daily	0700	0810			
	5J - 563	Daily	0900	1010			
	5J - 565	Daily	1100	1210			
	5J - 567	Daily	1300	1410			
	5J - 569	Daily	1500	1610			
	5J - 571	Daily	1700	1810			
*Will NOT be operated from 06 Nov to 13 Dec 2001	5J - 573*	Daily	1800	1910			
DAVAO	5J - 961	Daily	0430	0610	P3,307	P2,919	P2,399
	5J - 963	Daily	1000	1140			
	5J - 965	Daily	1220	1400			
	5J - 967	Daily	1500	1640			
*Will NOT be operated from 06 Nov to 13 Dec 2001	5J - 969*	Daily	1700	1840			
CAGAYAN de ORO	5J - 381	Daily	0510	0635	P3,295	P2,919	P2,399
	5J - 383	Daily	0930	1055			
*Will NOT be operated from 06 Nov to 13 Dec 2001	5J - 385*	Daily	1100	1225			
TACLOBAN	5J - 651	Daily	0610	0720	P2,718	P2,419	P1,999
	5J - 655	Daily	1210	1320			
*Will NOT be operated from 06 Nov to 13 Dec 2001	5J - 657*	Daily	1400	1510			
ILOILO	5J - 451	Daily	0505	0605	P2,498	P2,199	P1,949
	5J - 455	Daily	0955	1055			
	5J - 457*	M/W/F/Sun	1320	1420			
*Will NOT be operated from 06 Nov to 13 Dec 2001	5J - 459	Daily	1600	1700			
BACOLOD	5J - 473	M/W/F/Sun	0510	0610	P2,498	P2,199	P1,949
	5J - 473	Tu/Th/Sat	0620	0720			
	5J - 475	Daily	1000	1100			
	5J - 477*	Tu/Th/Sat	1320	1420			
*Will NOT be operated from 06 Nov to 13 Dec 2001	5J - 479	Daily	1640	1740			
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 851	Daily	0520	0650	P3,295	P2,639	P2,399
ROXAS	5J - 373	Daily	0530	0630	P2,279	P1,979	P1,649
DUMAGUETE	5J - 627	Daily	1340	1450	P2,608	P2,309	P1,999
KALIBO	5J - 339	Daily	0900	0950	P2,608	P2,309	P1,999

ORIGIN: CEBU

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 558	Daily	0320	0430	P2,608	P2,309	P1,999
	5J - 560	Daily	0700	0810			
	5J - 562	Daily	0900	1010			
	5J - 564	Daily	1100	1210			
	5J - 566	Daily	1300	1410			
	5J - 568	Daily	1500	1610			
	5J - 570	Daily	1700	1810			
	5J - 572	Daily	1900	2010			
*Will NOT be operated from 06 Nov to 13 Dec 2001	5J - 574*	Daily	2000	2110			
DAVAO	5J - 593	Daily	0800	0850	P2,339	P2,039	P1,649
*Will be operated every Mon-Wed-Fri from 06 Nov to 13 Dec 2001	5J - 597*	Daily	1450	1540			
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 431	W/Th/Sat	0905	1000	P2,388	P2,089	P1,799
ILOILO	5J - 164	Daily	1750	1825	P1,799	P1,599	P1,399
BACOLOD	5J - 126	M/W/F/Sun	0810	0840	P1,599	P1,399	P1,199
CLARK	5J - 588*	M/W/F	1050	1210	P2,995	P2,669	-

*Will be operated DAILY starting 14 Dec 2001

ORIGIN: DAVAO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 962	Daily	0720	0900	P3,307	P2,919	P2,399
	5J - 964	Daily	1220	1400			
	5J - 966	Daily	1440	1620			
	5J - 968	Daily	1720	1900			
*Will NOT be operated from 06 Nov to 13 Dec 2001	5J - 970*	Daily	1920	2100			
CEBU	5J - 594	Daily	0930	1020	P2,339	P2,039	P1,649
	5J - 598*	Daily	1620	1710			
ILOILO *via Cebu	5J - 598/164*	M/W/F	1620	1825	P3,295	P2,839	P2,549
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 393	Tu/F/Sun	0910	1010	P2,388	P2,089	P1,799

ORIGIN: CLARK

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
CEBU	5J - 589*	M/W/F	1300	1420	P2,995	P2,669	-

*Will be operated DAILY starting 14 Dec. 2001

ORIGIN: CAGAYAN DE ORO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 382	Daily	0715	0840	P3,295	P2,919	P2,399
	5J - 384	Daily	1135	1300			
*Will NOT be operated from 06 Nov to 13 Dec 2001	5J - 386*	Daily	1305	1430			

ORIGIN: TACLOBAN

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 652	Daily	0800	0910	P2,718	P2,419	P1,999
	5J - 656	Daily	1400	1510			
*Will NOT be operated from 06 Nov to 13 Dec 2001	5J - 658*	Daily	1550	1700			

ORIGIN: ILOILO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 456	Daily	1135	1235	P2,498	P2,199	P1,949
	5J - 458*	M/W/F/Sun	1510	1610			
	5J - 460	Daily	1740	1840			
*Will NOT be operated from 06 Nov to 13 Dec 2001	5J - 462	Daily	1905	2005			
CEBU	5J - 161	Daily	0645	0720	P1,799	P1,599	P1,399
DAVAO *via Cebu	5J - 161/593*	Daily	0645	0850	P3,295	P2,839	P2,549

ORIGIN: BACOLOD

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 474	M/W/F/Sun	0930	1030	P2,498	P2,199	P1,949
	5J - 474	Tu/Th/Sat	0810	0910			
	5J - 476	Daily	1150	1250			
	5J - 478*	Tu/Th/Sat	1510	1610			
*Will NOT be operated from 06 Nov to 13 Dec 2001	5J - 480	Daily	1830	1930			
CEBU	5J - 125	M/W/F/Sun	0700	0730	P1,599	P1,399	P1,199

ORIGIN: ZAMBOANGA

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 852	Mon	0730	0900	P3,295	P2,639	P2,399
	5J - 852	Tu-Sun	1050	1220			
CEBU	5J - 432	W/Th/Sat	0730	0825	P2,388	P2,089	P1,799
DAVAO	5J - 394	T/F/Sun	0730	0830	P2,388	P2,089	P1,799

ORIGIN: ROXAS

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 374	Daily	0710	0810	P2,279	P1,979	P1,649

ORIGIN: DUMAGUETE

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 628	Daily	1530	1640	P2,608	P2,309	P1,999

ORIGIN: KALIBO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 340	Daily	1030	1120	P2,608	P2,309	P1,999

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

FROM	TO	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA
MANILA	HONGKONG	5J - 112	Daily	0850	1050
		5J - 118	Daily	1640	1840
HONG KONG	MANILA	5J - 113	Daily	1150	1350
		5J - 119	Daily	1940	2140

NOTES:
- *All fares do not include government tax and are subject to government approval.*
- *Child's fare and other regular discounts are applicable against Normal Fares only.*
- *2-day Advance fare travel validity from June 13-December 15, 2001 only.*
- *Insurance surcharge of P300 per sector shall apply on all fare types.*
- *All fares are subject to change without prior notice.*

Call your travel agent or call 636-4938

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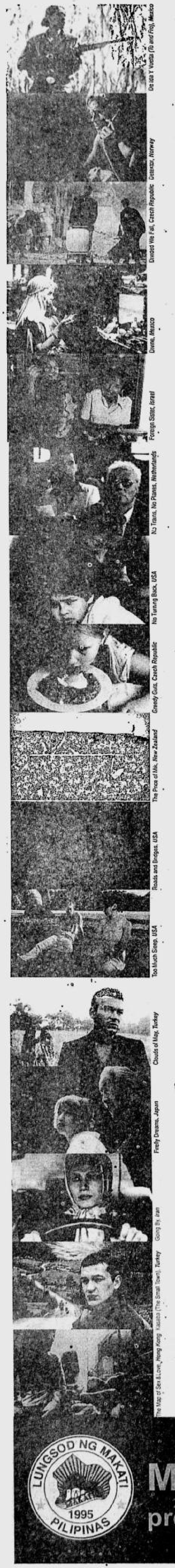

De ida Y Vuelta (To and Fro), Mexico
Detektor, Norway
Divided We Fall, Czech Republic
Divine, Mexico
Foreign Sister, Israel
No Trains, No Planes, Netherlands
No Turning Back, USA
Greedy Guts, Czech Republic
The Price of Milk, New Zealand
Roads and Bridges, USA
Too Much Sleep, USA
Clouds of May, Turkey
Firefly Dreams, Japan
Going By, Iran
Kasaba (The Small Town), Turkey
The Map of Sex & Love, Hong Kong

WELCOME! to the 3rd annual Cinemanila International Film Festival, set for December 7 through 16, 2001 at the Glorietta and Greenbelt Cinemas, Ayala Center, Makati City.

This year's Cinemanila is proudly presented by the City of Makati in cooperation with the Independent Cinema Association of the Philippines and the Makati Tourism Foundation, Inc.

Awards at stake in the festival are the Lino Brocka Award (Grand Prize), Grand Jury Prize, Best Actor in a Feature Film, Best Actress in a Feature Film, NETPAC Award (Critics Prize), Best Short, Best Documentary and the Ishmael Bernal Award (Young Cinema Prize). Citations will also be given to Filipino-American film talents who have made outstanding achievements in their field. Symposia and seminars covering a wide range of subjects on filmmaking will also be conducted by a team of local and international film experts.

This year's Festival will be formally opened by films from Korea, Belgium and France. These award-winning films are Korea's *Chunhyang,* Belgium's *No Man's Land* and France's *Under the Sand.* Thailand's *Tears of the Black Tiger* will be the closing film. The film's producer Nonzee Nimibutr, one of Thailand's most successful directors, will also grace the festival.

With over 75 critically acclaimed feature films, shorts and documentaries in showcase, Cinemanila 2001 promises to be a truly big event.

World Cinema
Asian Cinema
Philippine Cinema
Digital Cinema

MESSAGES

Malacañan Palace
Manila

I wish to convey my warmest greetings to the organizers and participants to the Cinemanila International Film Festival (CIFF).

For years, the Cinemanila has been at the forefront of various activities to improve the local movie industry. This prestigious event is another worthy undertaking that gives recognition to the achievements of the talented people of our movie industry. I commend your organization for remaining vigilant in improving the quality of filmmaking in the country and promoting quality local films that will make us proud as a people and as a nation.

We recognize the important role the CIFF plays in promoting our rich cultural heritage as Filipinos by giving due recognition to the talents our actors, actresses, filmmakers and those others who are, in one way or the other, part of the local movie industry. Your partnership with our Administration will help bolster this important industry and will help contribute towards a livelier, more dynamic and empowered Philippine society.

Let us be proud of our rich cultural heritage as a sovereign nation and become active contributors in helping our nation achieve greater peace, progress and prosperity.

MABUHAY!

GMArroyo
Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Manila, 6 December 2001

Office of the Vice President
Pasay City

My warmest greetings to the members of the Independent Cinema Association of the Philippines as they hold the 3rd Annual Cinemanila International Film Festival on December 7-16, 2001, in association with Movpix International, Inc. I likewise congratulate the City of Makati and the Makati Tourism Foundation, Inc. for being the host city and major partner, respectively, of the event.

Cinemanila, since its inception in 1999, has strived to fulfill its grand dream of turning the Philippines into a center of South East Asian Cinema, and Cinemanila as the Sundance of Asia.

This 10-day event will be an opportunity to showcase critically acclaimed and original films from different film capitals of the world. In addition, this film screening and exhibition festival would provide a venue for creative individuals to share experiences, examine issues, learn and enhance skills, and take part in an enriching event.

May these festivities give the movie industry a much-needed boost. I exhort the participants to continue their efforts to come up with champion films that challenge and stimulate the audience, as the development of the industry will certainly redound to the progress of the country.

MABUHAY KAYONG LAHAT!

Teofisto T. Guingona Jr.

Manila, 27 November 2001

Office of the Mayor
Makati City

It gives us great pleasure to be the host city of Cinemanila 2001. Cinemanila is emerging as one of the premier film festivals of Asia. Such a prestigious event deserves a home in the most prestigious city in the Philippines.

Makati today is the undisputed center of business and commerce in the Philippines. It is definitely the country's most cosmopolitan urban center. Yet, centuries-old Filipino traditions have survived the passage of time in our communities. Makati, in fact, is over 300 years old, one of the oldest communities in Metro Manila.

The imprints of our country's past are printed indelibly in our fair city, a city of fashionable living, cutting-edge communication technology, and frenetic business and commercial activity.

But Makati is not dedicated solely to the pursuit of commerce. Makati is also a city determined to immortalize the finest achievements of the human soul.

We are confident that with Cinemanila, the city government will be able to create a permanent interest in Makati as a venue for quality films and other art forms. And we are also confident that as a result of Makati's commitment to the arts, the Philippines will once again be acknowledged as the film capital of Asia, and a premier destination for the international arts and culture community.

On behalf of my fellow workers in the local government and the people of Makati, welcome to the city.

Jejomar C. Binay

House of Representatives
Quezon City

Warmest greetings to the Cinemanila 2001 International Film Festival.

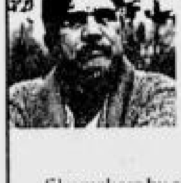
The influence of movies on popular culture can hardly be overstated.

When one factors in popular culture's impact on the day-to-day mindset and behavior of moviegoers, that influence is tremendous indeed.

Cinemanila deserves the highest commendation for organizing an event that showcases an outstanding sampling of current local and international cinematic output.

I hope and pray for your continued success this year and in the years to come.

Buty Aquino
Agapito "Butz" Aquino
Representative, 2nd District
Makati City



Cinemanila International Film Festival

Welcome to the third Cinemanila Film Festival, whose theme this year is "Bagong buhay, bagong cinema"—"A new life, a new cinema."

Crucial to the development of this cinema is the development of new and independent filmmakers. We hope to encourage these filmmakers by showcasing their work in our festival, by introducing them to our equally new, independent audience. At the same time, we hope to stimulate the imaginations of both audience and filmmaker by offering them a sample of world cinema, by showing them what is possible in the wide world outside them.

The intent may be to create something new but actually it has happened before, when Lino Brocka attended the Manila Film Festivals in the '50s to watch the films of Roberto Rossellini and Satiyajit Ray. What he saw—the realism, the raw beauty, the urgency of Rossellini's and Ray's films—inspired him to eventually try make his own films. Brocka, of course, is one of the key figures in what is now known as the '70s Golden Age of Philippine Cinema.

By focusing on new filmmakers and their audience, Cinemanila hopes to be an incubator of this kind of burgeoning new consciousness, this emerging artistry that will—hopefully, eventually—give us a new Philippine cinema.

Amable "Tikoy" Aguiluz VI
Festival Director

MAKATI
presents

CINEMANILA
international film festival

7-16 December • Glorietta and Greenbelt Cinemas, Makati City

Korean, Belgian and French films to open

CINE MANILA 2001 international film festival

***Chunhyang*—the celebrated South Korean film by Im Kwon-Taek, *No Man's Land*—Danis Tanovic's satiric story of two soldiers from enemy camps during the war in Bosnia and *Under the Sand* from France—will open the 3rd Annual Cinemanila International Film Festival.**

Presented by the City of Makati, Cinemanila 2001 will run from December 7-16, 2001 at the Greenbelt and Glorietta Cinemas. Opening night ceremonies will be held on December 6, 2001 at 6 p.m. at Onstage Theater to be followed by the gala screenings at all three Greenbelt cinemas.

Chunhyang which has been described as a gem of Asian cinema comparable to the classic films of Mizoguchi and Kurosawa combines the elements of pure film with the tradition of pansori sung theater in retelling an epic of outlawed romance. The film competed for Palme d'Or at the 2000 Cannes International Film Festival and won the Best Feature Film Prize at the 2000 Hawaii International Film Festival as well as the Best Director Award at this year's Singapore International Film Festival. During the New York Film Festival last year, *Chunhyang* was hailed as a triumph and turned out to be one of the most ravishing films of the entire program.

Chunhyang, Korea, directed by Im Kwon-Taek

No Man's Land is by Tanovic, a young filmmaker of Bosnian and Belgian citizenship. He studied at the Academy of Dramatic Arts in Sarajevo and directed the Archive of Documentary Films during the first two years of the Bosnian war. His news footage of the conflict was used by agencies around the world. From 1995 to 1997, he studied direction in Brussels where he shot a number of documentaries. Officially selected for the Golden Palm Award at Cannes last May, *No Man's Land* was conferred the Best Screenplay Prize. It is Bosnia's submission for the Best Foreign Language Film Category at the forthcoming Oscars in March 2002 and was exhibited in Karlovy Vary, Toronto, San Sebastian, Flanders and Tokyo International Film Festivals this year.

No Man's Land, Belgium, directed by Danis Tanovic

Under the Sand, France, directed by Francois Ozon

The French film *Under the Sand*, by Gallic wonderboy-director Francois Ozon, is the third opening film for Cinemanila 2001. This is the fourth feature from Ozon and his first to show a genuinely mature talent working from original material sans any gay subtext. *Under the Sand* which marks the screen comeback of famed actress Charlotte Rampling was also exhibited last April in the Hong Kong International Film Festival. After receiving a Master's degree in film, Ozon went on to attend the prestigious film school FEMIS. Aside from his four feature films, Ozon has also made several short films, including Action Verite (1994), La petite mort (1995), Une rove d' ete (1996), Scened de Lit (1997) and X2000 (1998).

The latest edition of Cinemanila features the best films from across the globe. Acclaimed and award-winning films including shorts and documentaries are in hallmark. The festival is divided into several sections, namely, **World Cinema, Asian Cinema, Philippine Cinema** and **Young Cinema (the Digital Program).**

Aside from Belgium, France and Korea, other participating countries for Cinemanila 2001 include Czech Republic, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Norway, Thailand, Iran, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Japan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Israel, New Zealand, Mexico and United States.

Renowned names in the international film scene are expected to grace the ten-day festival. Tributes, symposia, world premieres and other special activities are lined up as well.

Cinemanila 2001 is also sponsored by Ayala Cinemas as the official theater venue, Independent Cinema Association of the Philippines, Hotel Intercontinental-Manila as the official hotel, DHL—the official courier, Yehey—the official web host, the Philippine Daily Inquirer as the official broadsheet and MovPix International.

Salute to Filmmakers...

Cinemanila 2001 pays tribute to world-class filmmakers who have made significant contributions to the art of cinema. These filmmakers of various roles have achieved excellence in their own craft. The 3rd Annual Cinemanila International Film Festival showcases highlights of their acclaimed works through the years.

Ishmael Bernal

Nonzee Nimibutr

Gerard Corbiau

Marilou Diaz-Abaya

Regina Ziegler

CINEMANILA 2001 SCREENING SCHEDULE

		11:40 AM	2:10 PM	4:40 PM	7:10 PM	9:40 PM
Dec. 7 • Friday	**Greenbelt 1**	Roads and Bridges* *(USA)*	Return to Pontianak *(Singapore)*	The Year of the Quiet Sun *(Germany/Poland)*	Erotic Tales 1 *(Germany)*	Erotic Tales 2 *(Germany)*
	Greenbelt 3	No Turning Back *(USA/Spain)*	No Trains, No Planes *(Netherlands/Germany)*	The Map of Sex and Love *(Hong Kong)*	Divided We Fall *(Czech Republic)*	No Man's Land *(Belgium)*
	Glorietta 4	The Small Town *(Iran)*	The Isle** *(Korea)*	The Foul King** *(Korea)*	Chunhyang** *(Korea)*	Under the Sand *(France)*
Dec. 8 • Saturday	**Greenbelt 1**	The Isle *(Korea)*	The Foul King *(Korea)*	No Man's Land *(Belgium)*	Erotic Tales 3 *(Germany)*	Erotic Tales 4 *(Germany)*
	Greenbelt 3	Clouds *(Belgium)*	Love Inventory *(Israel)*	The Small Town *(Turkey)*	Greedy Guts *(Czech Republic)*	Good Work *(France)*
	Glorietta 4	Clouds of May *(Turkey)*	Roads and Bridges* *(USA)*	Divine *(Mexico)*	Detector *(Norway)*	Jan Dara*, **, *** *(Thailand)*
Dec. 9 • Sunday	**Greenbelt 1**	Disoriented* *(USA)*	Ecce Homo* *(Germany)*	This Is My Moon *(Sri Lanka)*	Farinelli *(Belgium)*	Erotic Tales 1 *(Germany)*
	Greenbelt 3	The Year of the Quiet Sun *(Germany)*	Erotic Tales 1 *(Germany)*	Erotic Tales 2 *(Germany)*	The Price of Milk*** *(New Zealand)*	Divided We Fall *(Czech Republic)*
	Glorietta 4	Erotic Tales 3 *(Germany)*	Erotic Tales 4 *(Germany)*	Dang Birely* *(Thailand)*	Bangkok Dangerous** *(Thailand)*	The King Is Dancing** *(Belgium)*
Dec. 10 • Monday	**Greenbelt 1**	Dang Birely** *(Thailand)*	Unfinished Song *(Iran)*	Erotic Tales 1 *(Germany)*	Good Work *(France)*	The Map of Sex and Love *(Hong Kong)*
	Greenbelt 3	No Turning Back *(USA/Spain)*	Roads and Bridges *(USA)*	The King Is Dancing *(Belgium)*	Under the Sand *(France)*	The Price of Milk*** *(New Zealand)*
	Glorietta 4	Too Much Sleep* *(USA)*	Disoriented *(USA)*	Firefly Dreams *(Japan)*	Divided We Fall** *(Czech Republic)*	Erotic Tales 2 *(Germany)*
Dec. 11 • Tuesday	**Greenbelt 1**	Farinelli *(Belgium)*	Erotic Tales 2 *(Germany)*	Ecce Homo *(Germany)*	Jan Dara *(Thailand)*	Detector *(Norway)*
	Greenbelt 3	Attack the Gas Station *(Korea)*	The Map of Sex and Love *(Hong Kong)*	This Is My Moon *(Sri Lanka)*	The Isle *(Korea)*	The Foul King *(Korea)*
	Glorietta 4	Clouds of May *(Turkey)*	Spinning Gasing *(Malaysia)*	Clouds *(Belgium)*	Greedy Guts** *(Czech Republic)*	Erotic Tales 3 *(Germany)*
Dec. 12 • Wednesday	**Greenbelt 1**	The King Is Dancing *(Belgium)*	Spinning Gasing *(Malaysia)*	No Turning Back *(USA/Spain)*	Divine *(Mexico)*	Greedy Guts *(Czech Republic)*
	Greenbelt 3	Barking Dogs Never Bite *(Korea)*	Erotic Tales 3 *(Germany)*	The Year of the Quiet Sun *(Germany/Poland)*	Roads and Bridges* *(USA)*	Chunhyang** *(Korea)*
	Glorietta 4	Return to Pontianak *(Singapore)*	Star Cinema Digital* Feature: ID *(The Philippines)*	Star Cinema Digital* Feature: Taksi ni Pilo *(The Philippines)*	Star Cinema Digital* Feature: Angels *(The Philippines)*	Erotic Tales 4 *(Germany)*
Dec. 13 • Thursday	**Greenbelt 1**	Unfinished Song *(Iran)*	Going By *(Iran)*	Nang Nak *(Thailand)*	The Price of Milk*** *(New Zealand)*	The Map of Sex and Love *(Hong Kong)*
	Greenbelt 3	The Foul King *(Korea)*	Too Much Sleep* *(USA)*	Erotic Tales 4 *(Germany)*	Clouds *(Belgium)*	Divine** *(Mexico)*
	Glorietta 4	Under the Sand *(France)*	No Trains, No Planes *(Netherlands/Germany)*	Good Work *(France)*	Happy End *(Korea)*	Divided We Fall *(Czech Republic)*
Dec. 14 • Friday	**Greenbelt 1**	Firefly Dreams *(Japan)*	Clouds of May *(Turkey)*	Greedy Guts *(Czech Republic)*	Batang West Side* *(The Philippines)*	>>>>>>>
	Greenbelt 3	The Isle *(Korea)*	The Tree *(Singapore)*	Roads and Bridges *(USA)*	This Is My Moon *(Sri Lanka)*	Jan Dara *(Thailand)*
	Glorietta 4	Chunhyang *(Korea)*	The Year of the Quiet Sun *(Germany/Poland)*	Spinning Gasing *(Malaysia)*	The King Is Dancing *(Belgium)*	Happy End *(Korea)*
Dec. 15 • Saturday	**Greenbelt 1**	Spinning Gasing *(Malaysia)*	To and Fro *(Mexico)*	Foreign Sister* *(Israel)*	SURPRISE FILM*	Bangkok Dangerous *(Thailand)*
	Greenbelt 3	The Tree *(Singapore)*	Return to Pontianak *(Singapore)*	Happy End *(Korea)*	No Trains, No Planes *(Netherlands/Germany)*	Greedy Guts *(Czech Republic)*
	Glorietta 4	No Man's Land *(Belgium)*	Attack the Gas Station** *(Korea)*	Barking Dogs Never Bite** *(Korea)*	Firefly Dreams *(Japan)*	Detector *(Norway)*
Dec. 16 • Sunday	**Greenbelt 1**	No Trains, No Planes *(Netherlands/Germany)*	Divine *(Mexico)*	To and Fro *(Mexico)*	Tears of the Black Tiger *(Thailand)*	Nang Nak *(Thailand)*
	Greenbelt 3	The Price of Milk *(New Zealand)*	Going By *(Iran)*	Return to Pontianak *(Singapore)*	This Is My Moon *(Sri Lanka)*	Tears of the Black Tiger *(Thailand)*
	Glorietta 4	Foreign Sister *(Israel)*	Farinelli *(Belgium)*	The King Is Dancing *(Belgium)*	Happy End* *(Korea)*	Barking Dogs Never Bite *(Korea)*

UP Film Center Screenings

	2:00 pm	5:00 pm	8:00 pm
Dec. 12 • Wednesday	*New Thai Cinema-* *Tribute to Nonzee Nimibutr:* Dang Birely	*New Thai Cinema-* *Tribute to Nonzee Nimibutr:* Nang Nak	*New Thai Cinema-* *Tribute to Nonzee Nimibutr:* Jan Dara
Dec. 13 • Thursday	*Regina Ziegler Presents-* *Tribute to Top German Producer:* Erotic Tales I	*Belgium in Focus-* *Tribute to Gerard Corbiau:* Farinelli	*Belgium in Focus-* *Tribute to Gerard Corbiau:* The King Is Dancing
Dec. 14 • Friday	Regina Ziegler Presents- Tribute to Top German Producer: *Erotic Tales II*	Regina Ziegler Presents- Tribute to Top German Producer: *Erotic Tales III*	Belgium In Focus- Tribute to Gerard Corbiau: *Erotic Tales IV*

CINEMANILA
Seminars and Screenings
Greenbelt Preview Room

7 December - FRIDAY

9:00 am	*NEW TECHNOLOGIES APPLIED IN POST PRODUCTION (16mm & 35mm)* with Daniel Borenstein
2:00 pm	*POST PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES FOR ADVERTISING FILMS, 2D-3D ANIMATION* with Gilbert Hus
6:00 pm	THE PHANTOM OF LIBERTY *(France)*

10 December - MONDAY

1:30 pm	Symposium: *PHILIPPINE DIGITAL CINEMA* with Milo Paz, Ellen Ongkeko Marfil, Gil Portes, Abe Pagtama, David Maquiling, Jon Red
4:00 pm	*FILMS BY THE 63 COLLECTIVE, GROUP OF FILIPINO-AMERICAN FILMMAKERS* "Embrace Madness" *(USA/Philippines)* by Matthew Abaya "Passport" *(USA/Philippines)* by Don de Leon "She" *(USA/Philippines)* by Mark Bella "Dirty" *(USA/Philippines)* by Jean Joson "How ' Bout Cebu" *(USA/Philippines)* by Mark Arbitrario
5:00 pm	THE SKY IS FALLING *(USA/Philippines)* by Christopher Ad. Castillo
6:00 pm	THE LAST PARIAN *(Philippines, Documentary Feature)* by Peter Chua
8:00 pm	"First Night Shift" *(USA/Philippines, 35mm short)* by Hubert Cheng LA VIDA ROSA *(Philippines)* by Chito Roño

11 December - TUESDAY

1:30 pm	Symposium: *NEW THAI CINEMA* with Nonzee Nimibutr, Vipavee Charoenpura, Duangkamol Limcharoen, Surasak Wongthai
4:00 pm	BILANGGO SA DILIM *(Philippines)* by Mike de Leon
5:20 pm	"Alab" *(Documentary Short, VHS/19 min)* by Janis Pioponco and Ana Cristina Ganzon SIGLO FILIPINO: ODYSSEY OF A NATION *(Philippines, Documentary Feature)* by Butch Nolasco
7:30 pm	"Motorsiklo" *(Philippines, 35 mm short)* by Cesar Hernando IN THE BOSSOM OF THE ENEMY *(Philippines)* by Gil Portes
9:30 pm	"Batang Trapo" (Philippines,35mm short) by Mes De Guzman BOB THE GAMBLER (France)

12 December - WEDNESDAY

1:30 pm	Symposium: *INDEPENDENT CINEMA* with Abraham Lim, David Maquiling, Elvert Bañares, Topel Lee, Giselle Aceremo
4:00 pm	*FILMS FROM eKsperim[E]nto FILM & VIDEO FESTIVAL* "Kahon" (Philippines, VHS/10 min) by Giselle Aceremo "Trickle Down Effect" (USA, VHS/10 min) by Keith Sicat "Sand" (Canada, VHS/15 min) by Percy Fuentes "Bullet Days" (USA, VHS/9 min) by Sari Lluch Dalena "Rescue in F Minor" (USA,VHS/13 min) by Jonah Lim
5:00 pm	STILL LIVES (Philippines, Digital Feature Film) by Jon Red
6:30 pm	KARGA MANO (Philippines, Digital Feature Film) by Ma. Theresa Jamias and Paul Yap Morales
8:00 pm	"Movements" (Philippines, 35 mm short) by Arnel Telesforo, Marcus Nada, Breiner Medina, Victor Balanon, Ferdiez Valencia, Jason Moss HIROSHIMA, MON AMOUR (France)

13 December - THURSDAY

1:30 pm	Symposium: *FILM CRITICISM* with Max Tessier, Jacques Poitrat, Radovan Holub, Gino Dormiendo, Noel Vera
4:00 pm	"O Pag-ibig" by Glenn Cruz DALAWANG PUGAD, ISANG IBON (Philippines) by Ishmael Bernal
6:00 pm	PAGDATING SA DULO (Philippines) by Ishmael Bernal
8:00 pm	DIVIDED BY TWO (Philippines) by Ishmael Bernal
10:00 pm	"Araw" (Philippines, 35mm short) by Peter Chua TUHOG (Philippines) by Jeffrey Jeturian

14 December - FRIDAY

1:00 pm	KARNAL (Philippines) by Marilou Diaz-Abaya
3:30 pm	Symposium: *FILM DIRECTION* with Marilou Diaz-Abaya Jeffrey Jeturian, Lav Diaz, Chito Roño, Tikoy Aguiluz
6:00 pm	BRUTAL* *(Philippines)* by Marilou Diaz-Abaya
8:00 pm	MORAL *(Philippines)* by Marilou Diaz- Abaya
10:00 pm	MAY NAGMAMAHAL SA IYO *(Philippines)* by Marilou Diaz-Abaya

Note:

* - *director will be present*
** - *representative will be present*
*** - *actress will be present*

Additional screening at Greenbelt 2 to be announced later.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

CINEMANILA international film festival

200

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GMA to Serge: Don't worry about my face

(From page A1)

military not only knew about the ransom but also took P5 million from it.

She said Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva were not involved in any ransom deal "to the best of my knowledge."

"I'm the appointing officer and I'm not asking for their resignation. I have full faith and confidence in them," she said.

Osmeña had called on Reyes, Villanueva and Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominguez to resign for allegedly violating the no-ransom policy.

The officers denied involvement in the supposed ransom payment. Reyes also said it was Osmeña who should resign in six months if he could not prove his claims.

Apology

Rigoberto Tiglao, spokesperson for the President, said Malacañang would accept an apology from Osmeña if he admitted that his informant had given him the bum steer.

"It is unfortunate that Senator Osmeña has entangled himself (in) his allegations of ransom payment," Tiglao said. "We will accept his apologies, though, if he states that he now believes that his 'someone' (who provided him the information) was merely concocting fabrications."

Asked if the Palace was asking for an apology from the senator, Tiglao said they were "not demanding anything" and simply wanted him to "reveal his source."

Tiglao said it was not fair for Osmeña to make "a quantum leap of a statement" in saying that the President knew of the ransom payment simply on the basis of information given him by "someone."

"We appeal to Senator Osmeña's sense of civility and . . . of fairness," he said.

Tiglao surmised that Osmeña himself was "probably surprised" that the statements he made Saturday in Bacolod would be given prominent media exposure.

"We regret that we have to take issue with Senator Osmeña's statements. We cannot let such falsehoods pass," Tiglao said.

But Osmeña reiterated that no less than Reyes and Villanueva were among those involved.

"I'm just performing my duty as a senator," Osmeña said. "But Secretary Reyes has a duty to perform, too. That's why he should be ashamed of himself. He should resign."

Osmeña noted that Reyes and Villanueva had not been able to contain the Abu Sayyaf at the end of their self-imposed six-month period to neutralize the bandit group.

"That's about 8,000 soldiers. So that's 100 soldiers for only one Abu Sayyaf bandit, and they have not won," he said.

Timing

The Senate committee on national defense chaired by Sen. Ramon Magsaysay said it had no plans to summon the President to shed light on Osmeña's disclosure.

But Magsaysay said it was important for Osmeña to issue a statement in writing for all the committee members to appreciate.

Asked about the timing of the disclosure, Magsaysay acknowledged that Osmeña's motive in revealing the information was now the subject of "a lot of speculation" even among majority senators.

"I do not know what is in his mind, so I just accept what he says and request him to give us more details. Otherwise, there will be more speculation and it will hinder the unification campaign of our people," Magsaysay said.

He also said Osmeña's disclosure was a "distraction" to what the AFP was doing under Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, chief of the Southern Command, in the Basilan crisis.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said there might be nothing "improper" with a senator helping facilitate the delivery of ransom because the prevailing policy was that of the executive and not of the legislature.

"The issue at stake is the lives of people. And the no-ransom policy is not a policy of Osmeña," Biazon said.

In the House, Lanao del Sur Rep. Benasing Macarambon said Osmeña should substantiate his claims.

"Politically he's finished if he does not prove it because he's trying to destroy the image of the President," said Macarambon, who added that he was inclined to believe that money had changed hands in the release of Romero and the two other captives.

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr., chair of the House committee on defense that investigated the alleged collusion between the military and the Abu Sayyaf, said there were inconsistencies in Osmeña's story.

"I think Serge should make up his mind. First, he said he was the one involved. Now, it's the President," Pichay said.

Macarambon said the burden of proof lay on Osmeña, whom he noted as the "most credible politician" from the Visayas.

He said it was incumbent on Osmeña to name the other participants in the ransom payment.

"Otherwise, *kawawa siya* (he'll turn out pathetic). *Lalabas siyang tsismoso* (He'll emerge as a gossip)," Macarambon said.

Innocence

The AFP closed ranks against Osmeña and challenged him to prove his allegations.

"We have nothing to hide, we say we are innocent. So let the accuser prove his case," AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said in a press conference. "If (Osmeña) goes to an investigating body, we will meet him there."

Adan also accused Osmeña of stretching the truth and trying to make a connection where there was none, particularly in General Villanueva's presence in Lamitan, Basilan, on the day that the ransom was supposedly paid.

"The chief of staff had all the right to be there to oversee a very delicate operation," Adan said. "He should not be blamed for being in Basilan at that time and then connect him to the possibility of receiving ransom."

Adan said talks about the military having received part of the ransom payment had contributed to the demoralization of the AFP.

"I think this is a serious allegation that should be brought to the proper agencies of the government, and not to the media," he said. "This should be investigated properly because we have nothing to hide here. This only serves to demoralize our soldiers in the field."

Adan also told radio station dyOK in Iloilo City that the President would not condone the payment of ransom "because she knows the need to maintain the morale of our troops."

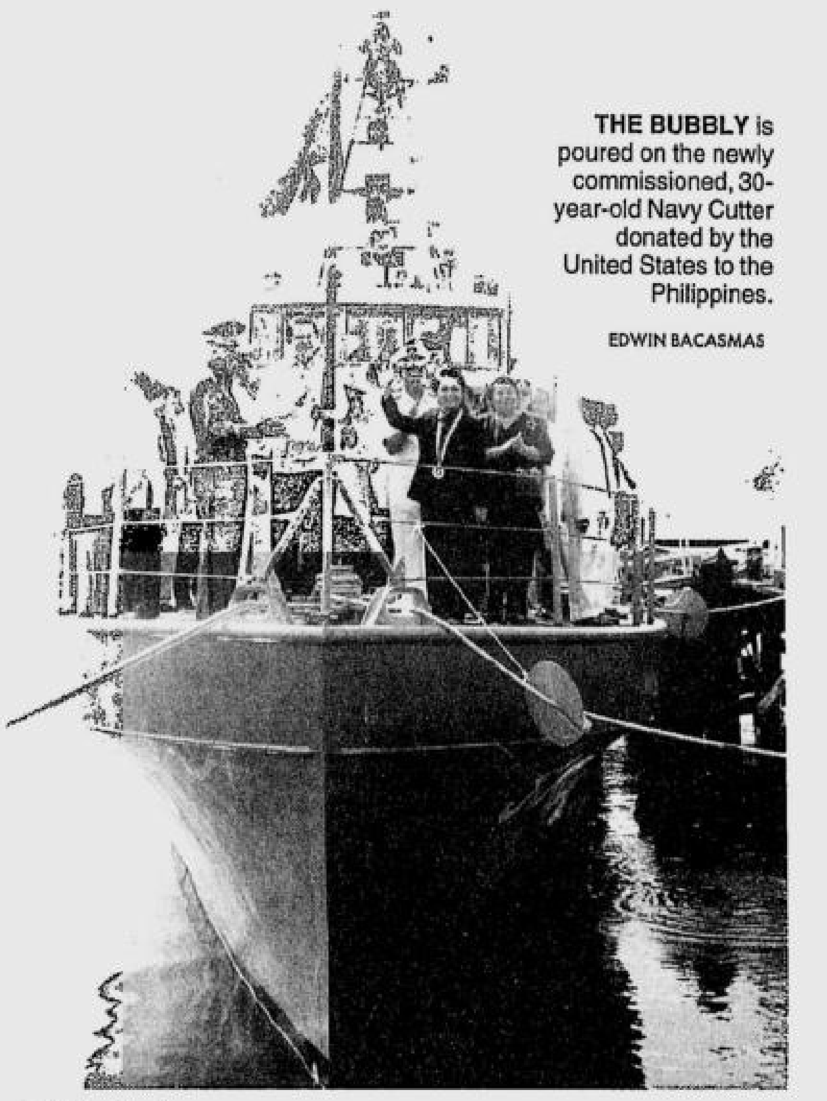
"We maintain that our officers were not involved in the alleged ransom payment and that we did not partake of it," he said.

In an interview, Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, AFP deputy chief of staff, denied that he and his officers were involved in any ransom deal.

"My conscience is clear. I didn't receive a single centavo here," said Camiling, who was Southcom chief when Romero and others were kidnapped.

Camiling admitted "a possibility" that Romero's family had paid ransom. "But we don't have evidence. It's all hearsay," he said.

He also said it was the senator who should resign in the absence of evidence. ***With reports from Martin P. Marfil and Juliet L. Javellana in Manila; Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau***



THE BUBBLY is poured on the newly commissioned, 30-year-old Navy Cutter donated by the United States to the Philippines.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Kidnap leader: Gov't gave me ₱5M for priest

(From page A1)

pulitiko (Many of them are politicians)," he said.

Gonzales

In an earlier interview with a radio station based in Davao City, Marohombsar said he had been meeting with Norberto Gonzales Jr., presidential adviser for special concerns, in Marawi City.

Marohombsar said they discussed the government's offer for him to give up and avail himself of livelihood assistance. The bandit leader once belonged to the Moro National Liberation Front but became an outlaw when he failed to receive government aid after he surrendered in the early 1990s.

Marohombsar's revelations strengthened suspicions that the government was giving in to the demands of kidnappers despite its avowed no-ransom policy.

Last Sunday, Senator Osmeña revealed that Malacañang had brokered a P17-million ransom for businessman Reghis Romero, who was seized along with 19 other hostages in Palawan by the Abu Sayyaf. ***(See related story on Page A1)***

Osmeña said he was even asked to deliver the money to the bandits, using his single-engine plane.

In the phone interview, Marohombsar said he was getting worried about by the current phase of his mission to meet with Pierantoni's kidnappers and their leader, Macaumao. He said something bad might have happened to the missionary.

Despite repeated efforts to contact Macaumao, Marohombsar said the kidnap leader was simply trying to avoid him.

Earlier, Fr. Janusz Burzawa, parish priest of Dimataling, said that since the abduction nearly two months ago, the kidnappers had not tried to establish contact with the clergy.

Not even a recorded message was provided to prove that Pierantoni is still alive, Burzawa said.

But Pierantoni's family appeared to be optimistic.

Sister's appeal

In a message broadcast over Radio Veritas and radio dxMS based in Cotabato City, the victim's younger sister, Christina, appealed anew to his kidnappers "to free him in the spirit of Christmas and the holy month of Ramadan."

"We trust your generosity, please, we ask you to release him," she said. "We know that you are living the Ramadan time, like us, we (are celebrating) Christmas season. This is very important moment for you and for us."

The broadcast was aired from Bologna, Italy.

In Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur, Army chief Lt. Gen. Jaime delos Santos blew his top yesterday when the INQUIRER asked him to comment on observations that the military did not seem to know where Pierantoni was.

Delos Santos, who held a news conference at the headquarters of the 1st Infantry Division, said insinuations that the military remained unaware of Pierantoni's whereabouts were "unfair" and "damaging."

He also avoided answering queries from two newsmen about the priest's condition.

Col. Estrellito Romero, deputy chief of Task Force Giuseppe and head of the 101st Infantry Brigade, said the military was withholding details about the case so that operations would not be hampered.

'Why make 'patol' to these people?'

(From page A1)

really know why you keep making *patol* (Sorry, no translation) to all of these people," she said during an ambush interview in Cavite City yesterday.

The President was referring to another round of allegations by Linda Montayre on behalf of the People's Consultative Assembly that her husband Jose Miguel Arroyo took kickbacks from rice imports.

"Sad to say, I'm not going to clamp down on your press freedom but I appeal to you. Look at the credibility of the people and also look at how specific their evidence is before you give them the dignity," she added, her voice rising, temper barely in check.

"I think our people deserve a better sense of priority of the things that you are covering," she went on.

Ms Macapagal said Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva and National Food Authority Administrator Anthony Abad had denied her husband's involvement.

"(I asked) Tony, 'Has my husband ever interfered?'" He said no. In fact, when people use his (Arroyo's) name, they call him and he said no, go after them," she said.

She earlier dismissed Montayre and the PCA's importance, saying both did not represent the "civil society" that helped put her in power in January.

Not important

Malacañang had also assailed Montayre's character, saying she had several estafa cases.

"I don't bother to dare them (to show evidence) because I told you, to me they are not that important," Ms Macapagal said yesterday.

"How many members are they? And what is the track record of that woman? . . . And those are the people whom you quote in your banner headlines?" she said.

Montayre earlier demanded the President's resignation after Mr. Arroyo was accused of taking a P50 million bribe to rescind a vetoed telecommunications franchise.

Last week Montayre said the President stood to earn a P20-billion commission from the proposed coco levy compromise deal allegedly with Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr.

Both times, Malacañang strongly denied the accusations.

Commissioning rites

Ms Macapagal was interviewed after the turnover of a US Navy patrol gunboat at the Sangley Point naval base in Cavite City.

The 30-year-old cutter, originally named Pt. Doran, was donated by the United States on Sept. 17 under the US Excess Defense Articles Program.

During the commissioning ceremonies, it was renamed the BRP Abraham Campo, in honor of one of the founders of the Philippine Navy.

The 82-foot patrol gunboat has a maximum speed of 23 knots.

Vice Adm. Victorino Hingco, flag officer in command of the Philippine Navy, said the donated vessel would be used for training and patrol.

Others present during the hour-long ceremonies were AFP Deputy Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, Navy Rear Adm. Ruben Domingo, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, Defense Undersecretary Feliciano Gacis Jr., US Embassy chargé d'affaires Robert Fitts and US Assistant Defense Secretary Peter Brooke.

Ador may lose gov't protection for hacking

(From page A1)

Under the WPP, a government witness is given a monthly allowance, a safe house and a security detail, among others.

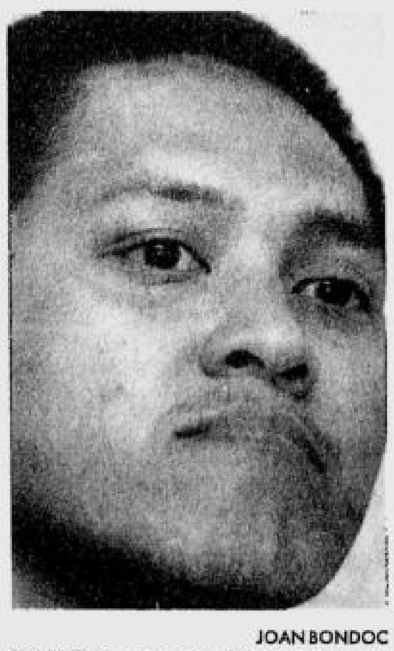
In extreme cases, a state witness can choose to change his or her identity for protection and can seek asylum abroad.

Mawanay had told the INQUIRER that he performed the hacking on Nov. 12-15 with the permission of Col. Victor Corpus, chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces.

He said Isafp even provided him a computer to allow him to illegally download the documents.

But Corpus flatly denied authorizing Mawanay to hack into bank files, saying the latter had gained the information on Lacson's supposed dollar deposits "on his own free will."

Corpus said that while the Isafp "does not condone such, we took the information at its face value as basis for verification."



JOAN BONDOC

WHAT happens to Mawanay now that his previous custodians are reportedly turning against him?

Aside from hacking into computer files, Mawanay is allegedly conducting swindling activities involving the buying and selling of cellular phones right from his safe house.

Overseas accounts

Corpus had earlier claimed that Lacson stashed at least $211 million in bank accounts in the United States, Canada and Hong Kong.

He said Lacson, wife Alice and deposed President Joseph Estrada had a total of about $1 billion in 18 joint or individual accounts in these countries.

Earlier, Mawanay claimed in a Senate hearing that Sen. Loren Legarda bought from him in 1998 1,000 smuggled cellular phones worth P8.9 million.

Legarda vehemently denied the claim and dared him to substantiate it.

This prompted certain senators to order Mawanay's detention in the chamber until he could produce evidence to back his claim. He was released after other senators and civil-society groups denounced his detention.

Mawanay asked Ombudsman Aniano Desierto to charge with unlawful detention Senators Legarda, Robert Barbers, Aquilino Pimentel, Teresa Aquino-Oreta, Noli de Castro, John Osmeña, Rodolfo Biazon and Robert Jaworski Sr.

Mawanay said the senators violated Article 124 of the Revised Penal Code, which deals with the issue on detention without lawful authority.

He maintained that he did not lie during the Senate hearing jointly conducted by the blue ribbon, public safety and defense committees.

But Desierto did not find probable cause, and subsequently ordered the dismissal of Mawanay's complaint.

Desierto said the Senate order detaining Mawanay was an official act and was covered by the chamber's vast powers.

GMA wants . . .

(From page A1)

base. The rebel assault and the ensuing military counterattack killed more than 100 people in Jolo.

A week after the Army base attack, Misuari's armed followers refused to leave an ARMM office complex in Zamboanga City and fought troops who ringed the area. The initial fighting killed 25 of Misuari's followers, two soldiers and one civilian.

The guerrillas seized 118 people as hostage and freed them in exchange for safe passage to an MNLF-controlled area, where about 300 Misuari loyalists are now surrounded by government forces.

About a dozen more guerrillas have been killed in scattered clashes as troops pursued about 40 others who broke away from the group that took the hostages.

MNLF letter

Ms Macapagal dismissed a statement issued by MNLF forces loyal to Misuari that the government started the violence in Jolo on Nov. 19 and in Zamboanga City on Nov. 28.

Ms Macapagal said she would "not dignify any letter" from Misuari "because right now he is charged with rebellion (and) he is a terrorist."

In a statement dated Dec. 4, the Misuari group said the Armed Forces of the Philippines attacked MNLF camps in Sulu under the pretext of "tactical operations against the Abu Sayyaf."

The group said the military sent helicopter gunships to Silangkan in Parang, Sulu, on the first day of Ramadan, while Misuari "was in the area visiting his family."

The group said that when the gunships arrived, "MNLF integrees (in the AFP) and regular troops in the camp fired into the air to drive away the rocket launcher-carrying helicopter gunships."

"The incident became the pretext for the Philippine occupation forces to order the disarming of the MNLF integrees and to attack the MNLF camp," the Misuari faction said.

"However, before the AFP could carry out the plan, MNLF integrees, (aided) by mass supporters and MNLF regulars, staged preemptive offensive assaults against the major camps of Philippine occupation forces in Jolo, Indanan, Panamao and Talipao on the early morning of Nov. 19," it said.

The Misuari faction also said that the military attacked the Cabatangan complex in Zamboanga City on Nov. 27.

"Moving out from the city to reach their camp in Panubigan, Zamboanga del Sur, the MNLF security forces took hold of 82 hostages to escape the AFP dragnet," the MNLF-Misuari group said.

"Immediately, however, when the MNLF freedom fighters released the hostages, the AFP colonial forces moved in with helicopter gunships to bombard the MNLF camp, resulting in continuous fighting in the area until today," the group said.

"Chair Misuari is holding morally and criminally responsible the government of President Macapagal-Arroyo for the resumption of the Filipino-Moro war in Mindanao between the MNLF freedom fighters and the Philippine occupation forces," said the MNLF central committee statement signed by Abu Mohammad and Abu Al Baydr.

Government violated accord

The group said the government violated its 1996 peace accord with the MNLF.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the government was "in fact fast-tracking the (1996) peace process" as shown by the holding of the Nov. 26 ARMM elections.

The polls are supposedly the last component of the peace accord signed by Misuari with the Ramos administration.

Misuari opposed the holding of the elections.

Dr. Parouk Hussin is the newly elected ARMM governor. The President has asked him to talk to Misuari's followers in Barangay Panubigan in Zamboanga City.

Col. Danilo Servando, spokesperson of the Southern Command, said an emissary of Hussin was in the area to convince Julhambrie Misuari and his more than 300 followers to hold a dialogue with Hussin.

Interior Assistant Secretary Ibrahim Iribani for the ARMM identified the emissary as acting ARMM governor Alvarez Isnaji.

"Dr. Parouk is the key to the resolution of this case," Iribani said.

Nur still MNLF chair?

He may be in a Malaysian jail in Sabah but Misuari remains the MNLF's official representative to the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), according to foreign affairs officials.

The MNLF represents the Bangsamoro people in the OIC and sits as an observer in the conference.

Until the general assembly meets in June, he remains the sole representative of the Bangsamoro in the eyes of the powerful conference.

"The recommendation of the OIC's committee of eight (regarding the MNLF leadership) will be taken up during the international conference of foreign ministers in June," said Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja.

Without an official statement from the OIC, recognizing the leadership of the 15-man council of the MNLF, Misuari remains the MNLF leader in the eyes of the OIC, according to Foreign Assistant Secretary Victoriano Lecaros. ***With reports from AP, Carlito Pablo and Norman Bordadora in Manila and Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

CAP-Southwoods up; Mizuno-DHL nearly quits

LABAJO pumps his fist after contributing 29 points for Mizuno-DHL. JESS YUSON

By Al S. Mendoza

BAGUIO CITY—CAP-Southwoods, starring Angelo Que, sped to an 8-point margin yesterday in the premiere Fil Division of the 52nd Fil-Am Golf Championship.

Que fired three birdies to post a 2-under-par, 38 points at the challenging Baguio Country Club— anchoring CAP-Southwoods' determined defense of its crown against title pretender Mizuno-DHL.

Three of Que's four teammates scored in the 30s in rapid fire fashion, putting a serious dent to Mizuno-DHL's bid for the crown.

In support of Que's effort, Jerome Delariarte fired 34 points, Erwin Vinluan 32 and Artemio Murakami 30. Jun Jun Plana's 29 did not count.

Mizuno-DHL's 126 came from Gene Bondoc's 36, Emilio Tuason's 31, Jay Bayron's 30 and Mario Labajo's 29.

Play had gone on smoothly in the bright sunshine until an incident in the Am Division nearly sparked Benny Gopez to pull his Mizuno-DHL Team out of the tournament.

Jojo Fernando's 35 points for Mizuno-DHL was annulled after he had signed a wrong scorecard, costing his team 8 precious points as the puny 27 of Jun Jun Grandeza counted.

CAP-Southwoods took the Am Division lead with 140 against Mizuno-DHL's 125 as the Carmona-based squads threatened anew to sweep both the Fil and Am crowns for the third straight year.

Grandeza's teammates, Ingemar Kjellberg had 31 and Tebor Marcelino and Roy Decendario 29. They were 15 points behind pacesetting CAP-Southwoods in the Am Division.

Lyndon Barril with 38, followed by Juami Rocha with 36, Montito Garcia another 36 and Hanson So Jr. 30 paced CAP-Southwoods' performance at Camp John Hay.

Thirdy Escano, the man who put a 4 instead of the correct 5 in Fernando's score, had a 29 that did not count.

"I told Thirdy I made par but it turned out he wrote down birdie," said Fernando. "I didn't check my scorecard before I submitted it, trusting that Thirdy wrote down 5. When the giant scoreboard flashed that I had a 36 instead of a 35 on my way home, I knew something was wrong. But it was too late when I discovered the mistake."

Heidi Construction led Fil Division's Flight with 109 (Omar Dunca 33, Nonito Noel 28, Sammy Bugayong 25, F. Nepomuceno 23). Meanwhile, St. Lukes General Hospital-Master Sports paced Fil Division's Flight B with 101 (Goody Ignacio 34, Francis Calma 24, Ben Lictican 23, Daboy del Carmen 20).

Isada pockets 9th rallye title

VIP Isada clinched the ninth rallye driver's championship title of his career after his win in last Saturday's 2001 Petron Rally Pilipinas.

Together with co-driver Robbie Hermoso in their Mazda 323, the Team Petron crew managed to finish fourth place in the grueling 210-kilometer race with a time of one hour, 27 minutes and 50 seconds.

"Preparation was the key to our win in this series," said Isada. The crew took 51 points out of the available 55 points in this year's rallying series.

Finishing second in the production category was last year's rallye champion Art Guevara and co-driver Ivan Isada in their Honda City VTEC. They posted a time of one hour, 30 minutes and 53 seconds, good for sixth place in the over-all race.

SLR takes Game 1

GAME TOMORROW (Philsports)
7 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs San Miguel

STA. Lucia Realty ran the breaks with clockwork precision as it humbled defending champion San Miguel Beer, 86-80, to take Game 1 of their best-of-seven PBA Governors Cup Finals' series at the Araneta Coliseum last night.

The Realtors worked behind their local crew as Paolo Mendoza and Gerard Francisco overshadowed San Miguel's backcourtmen that took much of the burden from Damien Owens.

Marlou Aquino and Dennis Espino, too, made life difficult for the Beermen's menacing frontline, forcing the defending champions to depend solely on the hardworking Lamont Strothers.

"As long as the locals contribute, we will have a chance in this series," said Sta. Lucia coach Norman Black. "And they (locals) did a pretty good job on easing the scoring burden on Owens."

A marked man, Owens watched his teammates handle the offensive chores in the third quarter where Aquino, Espino and Mendoza shone.

ERNIE SARMIENTO

MENDOZA, the PBA's Player of the Week, mans Sta. Lucia's backcourt.

When Strothers' guns suddenly fell silent, the Realtors dealt the finishing blows as Owens drained a shot-clock beating jumper and Francisco canned a triple in the last three minutes.

The Realtors were actually on the top of things even in the first quarter as Aquino, Espino and Owens pooled their talent together.

Earlier, Shell turned back Pop Cola, 96-87, to clinch third place honors.

Scores:

STA LUCIA 86—Owens 18, Espino 17, Aquino 17, Francisco 12, Mendoza 11, Belano 5, Adriano 3, Tan 3, Del Rosario 0.

SAN MIGUEL 80-Strothers 25, Seigle 18, Ildefonso 11, Pena 11, Belasco 8, Racela 4, Lago 3, Duat 0, Victoria 0.

Quarters: 22-18; 39-38; 68-57; 86-80.

PBL today

3:30 p.m.—Ana Freezers vs Montaña
5:30 p.m.—Blu Detergent vs Shark

NBA results

Spurs 103, Wizards 88; Timberwolves 108, SuperSonics 83; Bulls 103, Rockets 75;Kings 94, 76ers 84; Knicks 85, Bucks 71; Cavaliers 100, Pistons 88; Pacers 104, Nuggets 96; Jazz 104, Hornets 100; Clippers 87, Heat 83. *AP*

Gentleman's game

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

BAGUIO CITY—Let me make this short, fellas.

The player, to use a cliché, is the captain of his soul, the master of his destiny. He charts his own score, is responsible for the outcome of his round for the day.

I say this again in light of what occurred yesterday to Jojo Fernando, Mizuno-DHL's top gun at the Am Division in the 52nd Fil-Am Championship.

He submitted a scorecard that had a wrong entry on No. 17, a par 5. He made 5 there but his scorecard showed 4. Fernando didn't write 4; his marker, Thirdy Escano of CAP-Souhtwoods, did. This, after Fernando had told Escano he had made 5. After Escano gave back the scorecard to Fernando, Fernando never bothered to recheck his scores—a cardinal sin in golf—before he submitted it to the tournament committee. As a result, Fernando's 35 (1-over-par at Camp John Hay) was disqualified. But tournament rules allow Fernando to continue playing from today up to Saturday.

Benny Gopez, patriarch of Mizuno-DHL, had initially wanted to pull out his team in anger over what he termed "uncalled for oversight" by Escano.

"Everybody agrees that Thirdy knows the course like the palm of his hand," said Gopez. "For him to mistake No. 17 as par-4 instead of par-5 was inconceivable. But then, such is the nature of golf. A gentleman's game we love to say. So, I'm reconsidering my decision to pull out the teams. The show must go on."

Batangas wins NC crown

GAME TOMORROW (USLS Gym, Bacolod City)
5:30 P.M.--Cebuana Lhuillier vs Negros

By Roy Luarca

LIPA, Batangas—The LBC Batangas Blades withstood the Andok's San Juan Knights' furious assault in the homestretch to tally an 88-83 victory in Game Four yesterday and claim the Northern Conference title of the MBA Second Phase at the La Salle Lipa Sentrum.

More importantly, the Blades barged into the national finals against whoever wins the Southern Conference finals between the Negros Slashers and the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems.

Ahead by as many as 11 points going to the last four minutes, 79-68, the Blades watched the Knights wheel back into the game through the efforts of Chris Calaguio, Gilbert Castillo and Rafi Reavis, who hit a big three-pointer that pushed them to within 83-81.

In the return play, Alex Compton could only split his freethrows, but Romel Adducul snared the offensive board, leaving the Knights with no option but to foul Jeffrey Sanders with 22 seconds to go.

Pressure-free Sanders hit the two freethrows to cut short the best-of five series and deprive the Knights of the chance to defend their national title.

Cebuana Lhuillier squandered a 22-point lead but recovered its firepower to trounce Negros, 93-85, and force a deciding Game Five for the Southern Conference title at the Cebu City Coliseum. The series is tied at 2-2.

Forest Hills, Alabang lead Tradition

UNFANCIED Forest Hills and darkhorse Alabang capitalized on the sluggish starts of the favorites to take the top two positions in the first round recently of the The Tradition tournament at the Eastridge Golf Club course in Binangonan, Rizal.

With Canlubang and Luisita fading to the lower half of the standings, Forest Hills's 16-man contingent in three divisions (Group I and II and seniors) garnered 29 points while Alabang turned in 28.5 built around the sizzling low net 65 of Pete Cervantes.

Wack Wack was not too far behind with its 26 for the day while defending champion Sta. Elena, powered by Jingy Tuason's the day-best gross of one-under-par 71, was two back at 24.

The 16-man teams representing 10 clubs play the Canlubang south course today for the second round before moving on to Sta. Elena for the third and final round tomorrow of the tourney that aims to revive the purist concept of golf devoid of all commercial attributes.

With its excellent shape from tee to green, first-time host Eastridge managed to hold its own taking the assault of a horde of low handicappers which managed to produce just one sub-par gross round (Tuason).

Sta. Lucia Tour final leg tomorrow

A RESIDENTIAL property at the Eagle Ridge estate worth a million pesos, an Isuzu Fuego Pick-Up valued at more than half a million, audio-video showcases and an Omega watch will be given away in the grand raffe capping the 2001 Sta. Lucia Golf Tour at the Eagle Ridge Golf Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

There will be three different raffles that will be held in conjunction with the fourth and final leg of what has become the country's only nationwide golf series this year which fires off tomorrow at the flagship development of Sta. Lucia.

A separate raffle will be held for the tournament participants and two more for the entire membership roster of the five clubs currently operating under the umbrella of Sta. Lucia.

Today is the official practice rounds at the Aoki and Faldo courses of the host club for the Alta Vista, Eagle Ridge, Orchard, Rancho Palos Verdes and Royale Tagaytay golfers vying for the Sta. Lucia Tour.

Co-sponsors of the event are Golforce, Inc., Gainers Marketing, Atlanta Industries, Kubota Agro-Ind. Machinery Phils., Unirock, Readycon, Club Car, Omega, Yamaha/Kart Plaza, Philippine Airlines, Kodak Digital Camera, Isuzu, Canscor Construction and Development, Inc., Neltex and Anako. Official hotels are Hyatt, Cebu Plaza and Marco Polo-Davao. Philippine Airlines is the official carrier.

Eagle Ridge is leading the chase for the Sta. Lucia Cup with Orchard as the only team capable denying its repeat bid.

In the individual competition, Dan Salvador carries a seven-point edge over Andy Vasquez in Class A, Mario Naval is up by 19 over Carlo Ignacio in Class B, Sergio Boy Gonzalez is just a point ahead of Ambrosio de Luna in Class C and Aloysius Pacia is leading Class D with Paul Elevado III just five points behind.

"We've been fortunate to have drawn the solid support of members from our clubs all over the country and we can rightfully claim that we've gotten bigger this year and for sure we'll get bigger next year," said executive committee co-chair Vicente Santos and Winnie Gob.

RP netter out

EIGHTH-seeded Dmitri Mazur of Uzbekistan ousted Filipino wild card Joseph Victorino, 6-1, 6-0, yesterday to reach the quarterfinals of the US$15,000 Truflex ITF Philippines Men's Futures 2 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Mazur, the world's No. 477, advanced against German Maximilian Abel, a 6-4, 6-1 winner over South African Robert Krause.

Filipino pair Johnny Arcilla and Adelo Abadia lost their first-round match to third seeds Juraj Hasco and Roman Kukal of Slovak Republic, 7-6 (5), 6-2.

SPORTSWATCH

Yalo, Inigo Maxi scooter champs

THE MAXI Scooter Series came to a fitting end with Carlo Yalo of Exact-Castrol Racing Team and Robby Inigo of Team 2211 Cycle Works-Castrol bagging the overall titles in the automatic and geared categories, respectively, at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas. Yalo squeezed enough power out of his 135cc engine to clinch the win—his fourth in the five-part series—and capture the overall championship with a runaway score of 100 points. Miguel Bichara of Team Elf-Malossi finished second overall with 72 points, while last year's overall winner Jeffrey Ballesteros settled for third place with 64 points. Rounding out the top five finishers this year were Ritchie Abrina of Cole Ann-Koso, fourth with 54 points; and Ricky Montelibano of 2211-Elf, fifth with 45 points. Edwin Buenaventura of Cole Ann-Koso finished sixth overall with 35 points despite two mechanical failures in the fourth and third rounds.

Xavier School cagers tame Eaglets

CEBU CITY—Xavier School's multi-titled Stallions shocked UAAP junior runner-up Ateneo Eaglets, 58-50, Tuesday to bag the 2001 JAM (Jesuit Athletic Meet) basketball crown at the Sacred Heart School court here. Shifty pointguard Tyrone Tang poured in eight of his 14 points in the last quarter to spark the Stallions' breakaway from a 39-38 third quarter lead to 52-42 with less than three minutes left in the exciting contest. Chris Tiu and Bon Syiaco also sparkled for the Stallions, who have already won 15 titles under coach Mon Amador in 30 months, scoring 18 and 13 points, respectively, while Sammy Young, Mark Tio, Alex Young and Joseph Chua controlled both boards.

Christmas derby today at Roligon

SMALL-TIME cockers will be treated to exciting fights with the holding today of the Christmas 3-Cock Derby at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City. Hosted by Jog, Tiling and Boboy the cockfest will be participated in by Benjie Ledesma, Junior Cadia, Tony Lasala, Carding Ng, Francis Lumunsad, William Go, ASF & Co., engineer Martinez, lawyer Ruaro and many more surprise entries. The pot money for this derby is P4,400 plus P50,000 cash prize and a bonus of P30,000 to the handler for a minimun bet of P3,300. Promoter Danny "Showdown" Ty said more than 50 fights are expected in this derby which will start at exactly 6 p.m.

Ucap circuit gets going tomorrow

THE FOUR-COCK, 14-derby circuit of the United Cockers Association of Batangas starts on Friday, at the Mataas-na-Kahoy cockpit in Lipa City. This first derby of the club for the current season is sponsored by Mario Villamor and Tito Reyes. The derbies are to be held every first and last Friday of the month until June 2002. The fights start promptly at 7 p.m. Weights must be submitted today (Thursday, Dec. 6) from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. to tel. nos. 527-18-40, 527-76-51 (Jake and Bel) or to (043) 757-1665 and (043) 758-8934 (Narding).

Lipa kegler shines

UNDERRATED Danny Marquez of Lipa City snatched the title of the 2nd Pepsi-GameworX Tenpin Bowling Classic yesterday at GameworX StriXe fourth level of Festival Supermall, Filinvest Alabang Muntinlupa City.

The 48-year-old Marquez, representing Fiesta Mall Tenpin Bowlers Association Lipa City, bested Arnulfo Alipio from Dagupan Tenpin Bowlers Association in a tight finish with 178 pinfalls in the shootout to bring home the P50,000 worth of gift certificates and trophy.

Marquez took the No. 1 spot at the end of semifinal round with 4.908 pinfalls and had an automatic twice-to-beat advantage in the finals.

Arnulfo Alipio, a former councilor from Dagupan City, also stole the limelight by beating top caliber bowlers in the semis to grab the first runner-up and bring home the P30,000 worth of gift certificates.

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Race 4—1. Emancipated Belle 2. Snowy Market 3. Real Dancer

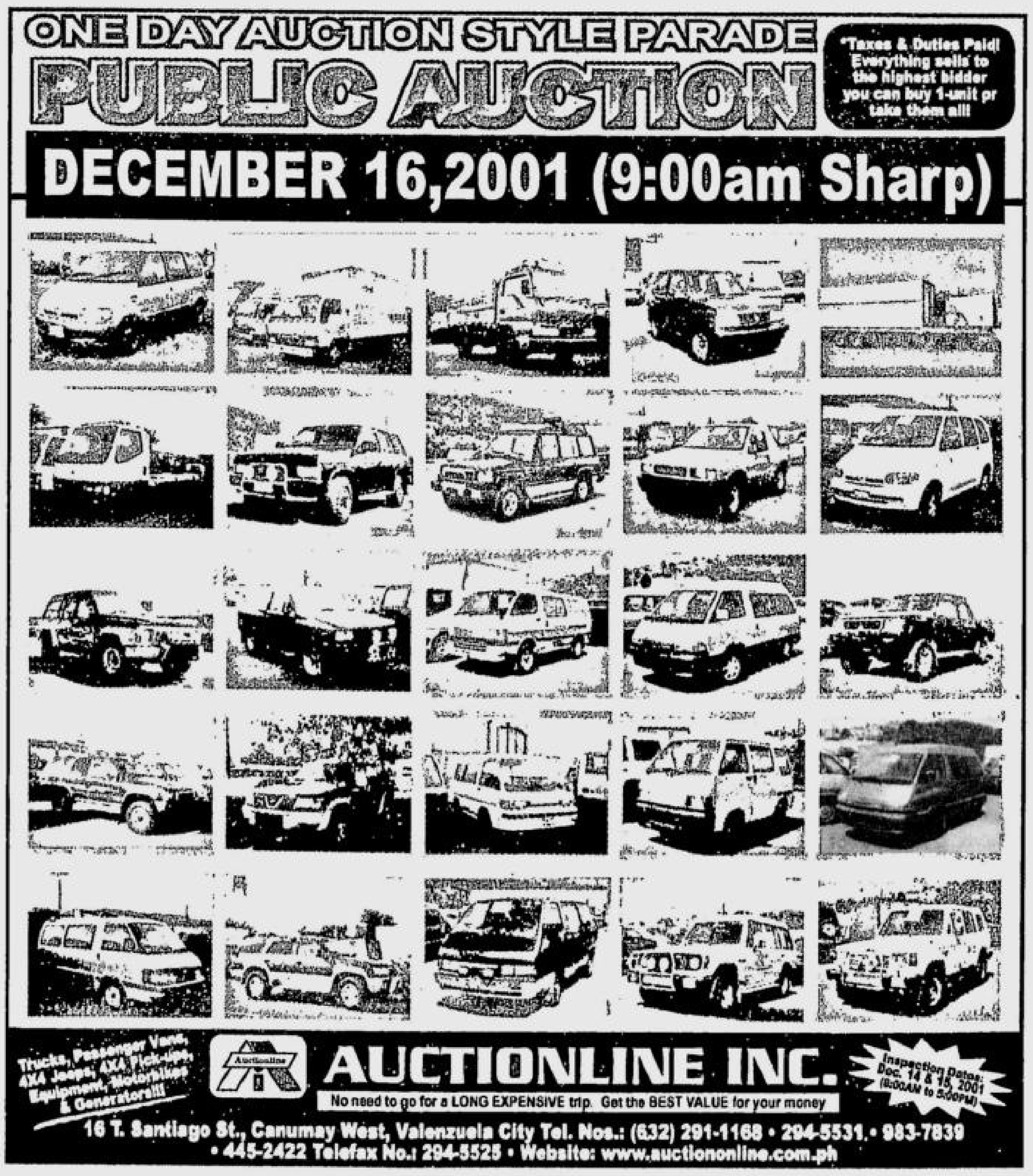
Race 5—1. Disco Dancer 2. Super Shuttle 3. Carte Blanche 4. Rule By Right

Race 6—1. Wing Commander 2. Gigi's Gold 3. Aim for Gold 4. Zaragoza Real

Race 7—1. Letshaveaparty 2. Oishi Oshi 3. Man of the Hour 4. All Grace

Race 8—1. Party Princess 2. Dominant dancer 3. Strong Alphonse

Race 9—1. Winning Rose 2. Corporate Law 3. Wassapenin 4. Lovely Luigi 5. Prime Minister 6. Empire Girl



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SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ◼ **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

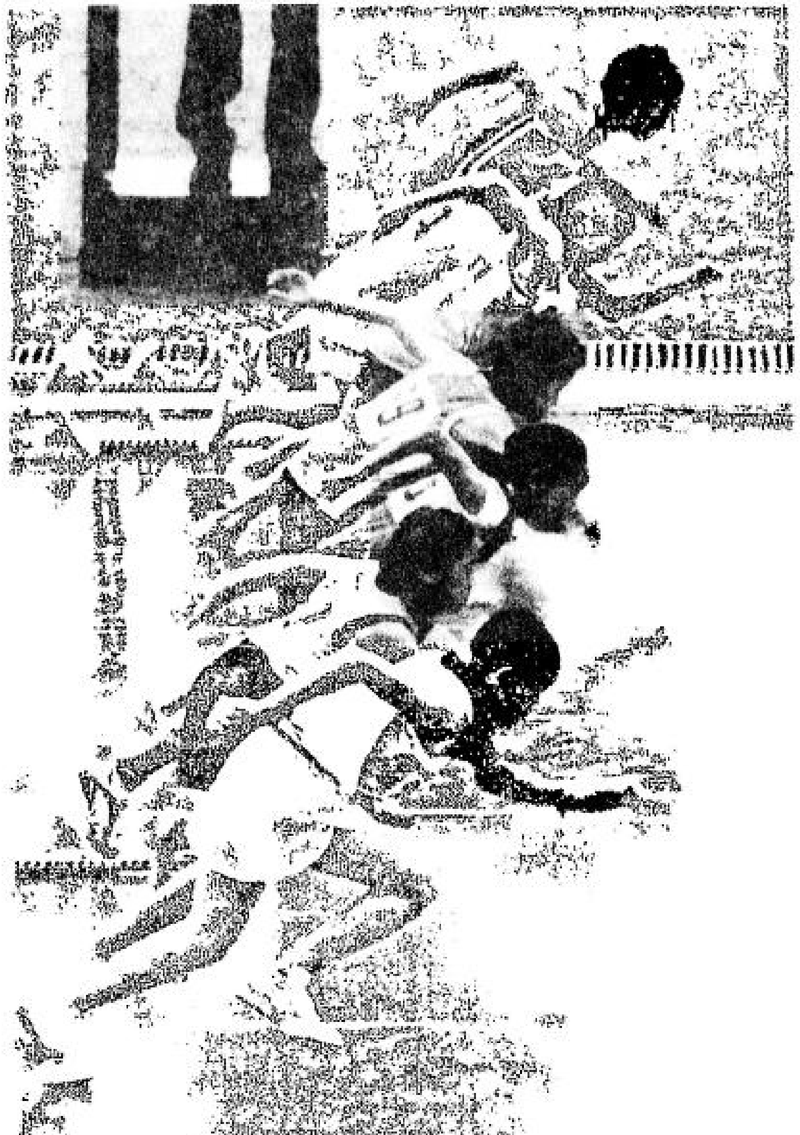
WBC upholds Salud protest

THE WORLD Boxing Council has upheld the protest filed by lawyer Rudy Salud, manager of former WBC super flyweight champion Gerry Peñalosa, and ordered that Peñalosa be given another crack at the world title by March 2002. Penalosa lost a controversial decision to Japan-born North Korean Masamori Tokuyama last Sept. 24. In a resolution signed by WBC president Jose Sulaiman and Peñalosa's manager, the eminent Rudy Salud who is attending the WBC Convention in Pattaya, Thailand, Tokuyama was allowed to defend his title against Ryuko of Japan "or any other challenger" by March 2002.

BATANG PINOY GAMES

Manila bets pull away

By Marc Anthony Reyes



ENTRIES, mostly barefooted, answer the starting gun in the 50-meter dash (girls' heat). ROMY HOMILLADA

BACOLOD CITY — Swimming records continued to fall on a stormy Wednesday as Manila snared five more gold medals from the pool in the Philippine National Youth Games-Batang Pinoy at the Panaad Sports Complex here.

That binge elevated Manila to the top spot halfway through the Games with 11 gold medals so far and enabled it to pull away from Cebu Province, whose gold medal machine suddenly broke down.

Bukidnon's Rorydel Camong completed her supremacy in the sprints by winning the 200m. The 12-year-old Camong, who developed her fondness for running while playing on the field with her seven siblings, is a daughter of farming couple Remy and Florenda of Calilagan, Bukidnon. She won the century dash Tuesday.

Laguna also made a ripple in the pool with four golds yesterday as well as Cavite, Rizal and host Bacolod City, which netted three golds apiece.

Manila's swimming onslaught was anchored on Heidi Gem Ong in 100m freestyle for girls 11-12, Leland Robinson Tan in 50m breaststroke and 50m backstroke for boys 6-under, Kimberly Uy in 50m back for girls 6-under and Jose Luigino Baylon in 100m butterfly for boys 7-8.

But creating the biggest splash was 8-year-old Denjylie Cordero, daughter of national team coach Dennis Cordero from Antipolo, Rizal, who plucked two more gold medals to become one of the winningest athletes so far with three golds.

Cordero won the 100m freestyle and the 50m breaststroke for girls 7-8 years old yesterday, both of them in record-tying fashion. Those added up to her record-setting 100m breaststroke victory Tuesday.

Sharing the limelight with her was hometown hero Miguel Villanueva who also took two golds from the pool to hike his haul to three after taking the 50m backstroke where he set a new mark and 100m freestyle where he tied the record for boys 9-10. He also topped the 50m freestyle last Tuesday.

The record-breaking feats also prompted Philippine Sports Commission chair Butch Tuason to create PSC's own stable of young athletes apart from the national pool's training roster.

In yesterday's swimming competition alone, 13 records were surpassed while eight more were tied.

Setting new meet standards were Mandaluyong's Jan Michael Chiu in 100m free (boys 11-12), Batangas' Mary Ruth Catapang in 50m breast for (girls 6-under), Naga City's Ernest Lorenzo in 100m butterfly (11-12), Cavite's Apryl Pearl Herrera in 100m butterfly (girls 11-12), Cavite's Jena Crisostomo in 100m butterfly 100m backstroke (girls 7-8),

Manila's Jose Luigino Baylon in 100m butterfly (girls 7-8), Laguna's Joyce Charlotte Casino in 100m butterfly (girls 9-10), Quezon City's Jasper Ong in 100m butterfly (boys 9-10), Laguna's Banjo Borja in 100m back (boys 7-8), Oriental Mindoro's Mariel Infantado in 50m back (girls 9-10), Lucena City's Lianne Marice Marquez in 50m back (girls 11-12) and Laguna's Michaelmars Danila in 50m back (boys 11-12).

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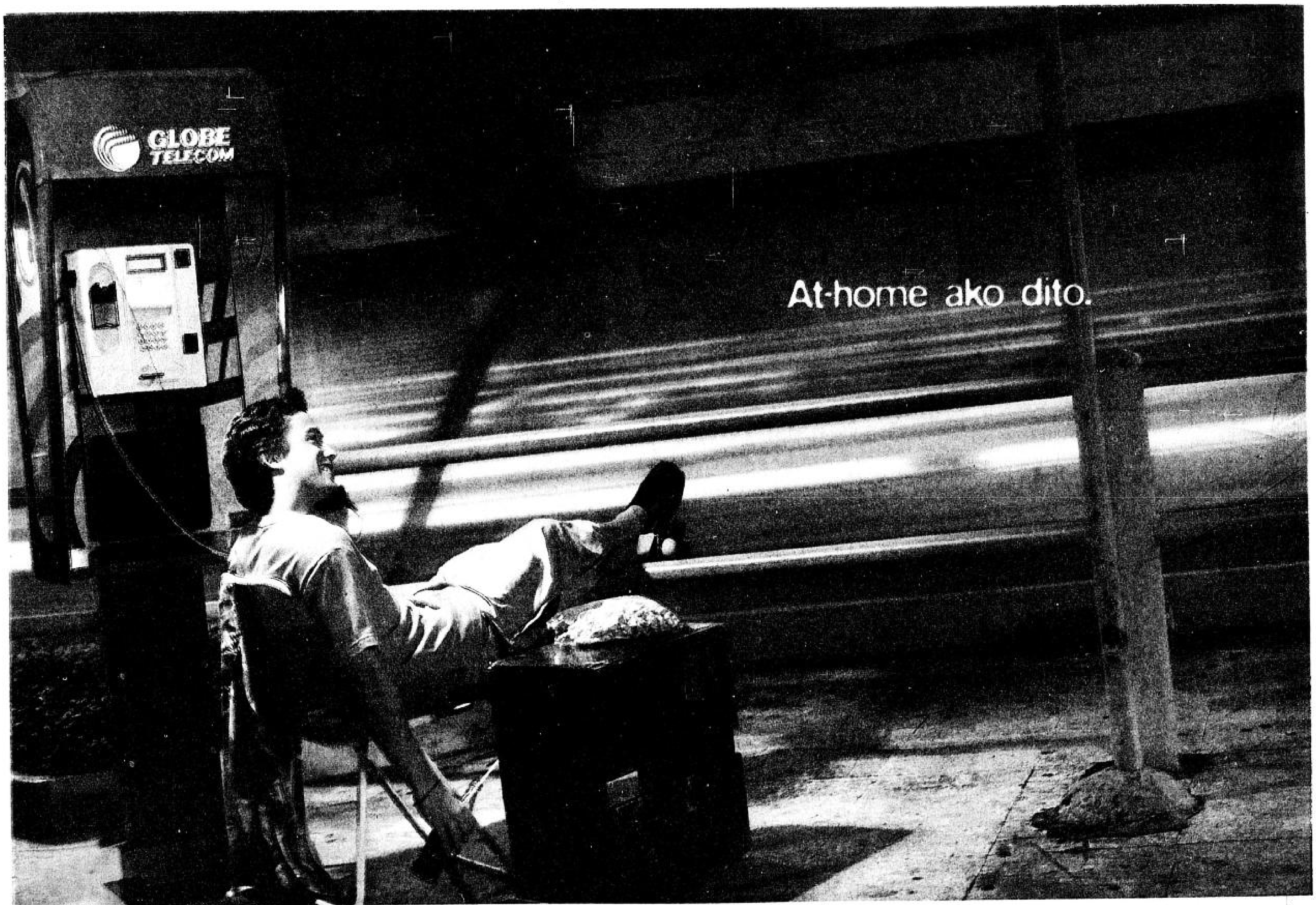

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Erratum: The Globe Telcard cellphone rate that appeared on the December 2, 2001 (Sunday) issue of this publication should have been ₱12.50/min. and not ₱4,50/min.
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Osang won't go to jail A22

METRO
LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Vandolph sheds a tear

Comatose GF succumbs at Makati Med ICU

DESIREE RAQUIZA, 17:

BY LEAH SALTERIO

DID he feel she was gone?

At around 1 p.m. yesterday, Vandolph Quizon's face somewhat reddened and he shed a tear.

He remained unconscious and supposedly was without any knowledge that his girlfriend, Desiree "Ishee" Raquiza, had died late Tuesday night.

No one has told Vandolph about the death of Raquiza, who was confined beside his room at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of Makati Medical Center, following the Nov. 17 vehicular accident in Pangasinan.

Raquiza, who had earlier been pronounced clinically dead, succumbed at 11:45 p.m. on Tuesday. She suffered brain hemorrhage caused by the impact after the Ford-150 pickup Vandolph was driving smashed into an Elf truck.

Vandolph's mother, Alma Moreno, and Zsa Zsa Padilla, the partner of his father, ace comedian Dolphy, attended to Raquiza while the girl was being cleaned, before she was brought to the morgue at dawn yesterday.

"Ness brushed Ishee's cheeks and arms," said Moreno's close aide, Josie Tadoy.

Also there were Dolphy and his other children, as well as Moreno's husband, Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez. They were all in tears.

"Ishee looked like she was merely sleeping," Moreno said.

Raquiza, 17, was the second child, the only girl, among the four children of Levi and Marissa Raquiza. She was a grand daughter of former Assemblyman Antonio Raquiza.

The Raquizas live in Merville Subdivision, Parañaque.

A source close to Vandolph's family told the INQUIRER that Dolphy shouldered the hospital bills of Raquiza at Makati Medical Center.

VANDOLPH/ A22

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Lugaw and watusi as tragic agents

By Christian V. Esguerra

DANCING firecracker, or watusi, is supposed to brighten the holidays. Lugaw, or congee, can alleviate hunger.

These two things however took on tragic roles in Pasay City on Tuesday.

Poverty drove Racquel Hermocilla, 29, to kill herself by eating a box of "watusi" the other night, police said.

Hermocilla was said to have been depressed since she and her husband had been reeling in hunger even before they married a few years ago.

The victim's housemate found her body in front of her house on Caressa Street in Rivera Village around 5 p.m., according to the report by SPO2 Eduardo Cabria and PO3 Reynaldo Aguba.

The housemate and barangay captain Daniel Detera administered first aid on the victim before they brought her to the Olivarez Hospital, police said.

But a doctor at the hospital said that the victim could have been dead for at least six hours before her body was found.

Hours after Hermocilla was found dead, Emily Orayan, 33, went to the Pasay police headquarters to file charges against her husband Rodolfo, 40.

The husband beat up his wife black and blue for waking him up early in the morning to ask for money, investigation showed.

The wife intended to buy congee or "lugaw" for her children's breakfast.

But instead of shelling out money, an enraged Rodolfo allegedly punched and kicked his wife.

The victim fell on the concrete pavement of their house in Villamor Airbase and suffered a nasty cut on the face, among her several injuries, investigation showed.

Authorities are set to file charges against the husband, who is now detained at the police headquarters.

Walk out, WPD chief dares cops

By Philip C. Tubeza

WESTERN Police District director Chief Supt. Nicolas Pasinos yesterday dared his disgruntled men to walk out of their jobs so he could prove the legality of the new disciplinary rules they are protesting.

"*Bilis-bilisan nila*. We will prove the legality of it. There is no martial law here," Pasinos said.

He said that the district is trying to improve discipline because absenteeism affects up to 40 percent of the 3,178 uniformed and non-uniformed personnel of the WPD.

He said the district has identified 38 "notorious absentees" who have already been charged.

WPD policemen complained earlier this week that a virtual "martial law" had been imposed on them with the implementation of the new regulations.

But the new regulations' author, Deputy-Director General Edgar Aglipay, National Capital Region Police Office, said yesterday that the new rules would stay.

"If they walk out, they will not be walking out on me, they will walk out on the peace-loving people of Metro Manila," Aglipay said.

"We are just trying to bring back the virtues and old culture of discipline in the police force," Aglipay added.

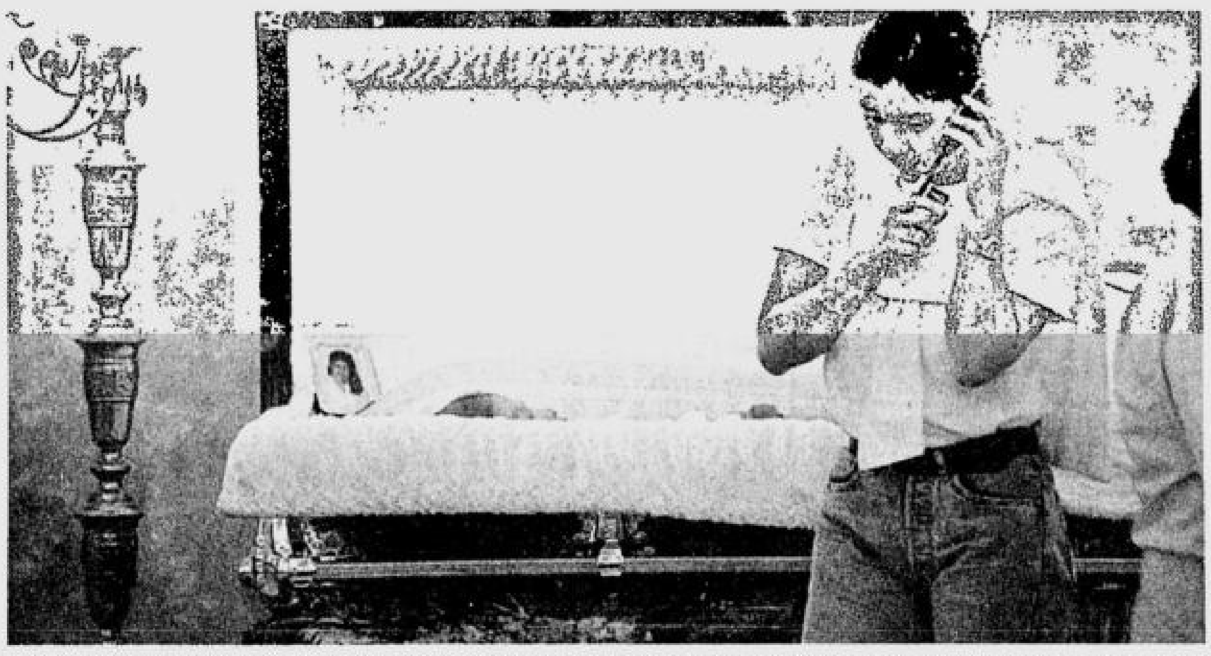
He explained that the roll call formation would ensure that policemen report for duty.

Aglipay said that he had already formed teams to find out who are absent or late. The teams would then inquire if the erring policemen are recidivists.

If these policemen do not have valid reasons for their absences or for their tardiness, they would then be transferred to the provinces.

He said 270 policemen have already been transferred out of Metro Manila.

Aglipay added that if the disgruntled policemen knew of 15/30 lawmen who escaped the current drive against absenteeism, they could text him on his cellular phone number: 09178131310.



ACTRESS Alma Moreno, Vandolph's mother, among the early sympathizers during the wake of Desiree Raquiza at the Holy Trinity Chapel in Sucat, Parañaque.

ERIKARAZAS

Vandolph sheds . . .

(From page A21)

The ace comedian is also reportedly paying for Raquiza's funeral expenses.

Dolphy also shouldered the whopping fee for the use of the helicopter, which airlifted Raquiza from a hospital in Dagupan to the Makati Medical Center, a day after the accident.

In the hospital yesterday, pop idol Gary Valenciano and his wife Angeli visited Vandolph and prayed over him in the ICU.

Those who know Raquiza and Vandolph say the young sweethearts were so much in love with each other.

"She (Desiree) was the only girl Vandolph had introduced to me," Alma Moreno said.

"One day, while I was rehearsing for a show at Another World (her bar-restaurant in Parañaque), he came up to me and introduced Ishee. He didn't even say she was his girlfriend. But of course I already knew that," she explained.

Moreno said her son also visited Raquiza's relatives and introduced himself. He also introduced Raquiza to his half-brothers and sisters.

Curiously, Raquiza and Vandolph were born in the same month.

She would have turned 18 next year (May 12), while Vandolph is also turning 18 on May 7.

Both their mothers were also born in May. Moreno's birthday is May 27, while Mrs Raquiza's is May 29.

Earlier last Tuesday night, Moreno was in tears when she attended the mass offered by the Professional Artists Managers, Inc. (PAMI) for the show biz families who were greatly affected by the series of tragedy that has befallen several members of the industry.

The mass was held at the St. Louis Chauvett Chapel inside St. Paul College in Quezon City. Others who attended were Katherine Torres, the only child of slain actress Nida Blanca, action king Fernando Poe Jr. and his wife Susan Roces, actress-film producer Armida Siguion-Reyna, young loveteam Judy Ann Santos and Piolo Pascual, TV host Kris Aquino, Christopher de Leon, Edu Manzano, and show biz couple Richard Gomez and Lucy Torres.

Raquiza and Vandolph became sweethearts while they were still high school freshmen at the Colegio San Agustin in Makati.

Since they were still very young, they often had petty fights, and they broke up.

The romance was rekindled only last Sept. 8.

Yesterday morning, Raquiza's classmates in junior high school brought a wreath which was placed beside her coffin at the Holy Trinity Chapel in Sucat Road, Parañaque. Written on the ribbon was, "We love Ishee — James, Carlo, Audrey, Anna and Chay."

Teachers at Colegio San Agustin all attested to the good behavior of both Vandolph and Raquiza.

"I believe the girl inspired Vandolph to aim for good grades," Moreno said.

"You know that Vandolph really loved Ishee so much because their two companions in the pickup during the accident told us he even tried to shield her when their vehicle hit a truck," Moreno added.

Raquiza's interment is tentatively set at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat on Sunday.

RAM wants Abenina out of LTO

By Carlito Pablo

THE REBOLUSYONARYONG Alyansang Makabansa has formally asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to relieve retired General Edgardo Abenina as chief of the Land Transportation Office.

In a letter signed by RAM chair retired Commodore Domingo Calajate on the occasion of RAM's founding anniversary on Nov. 30, the former military rebel group endorsed the appointment to the LTO of decorated Scout Ranger Col. Romeo Lim.

Abenina, who represented RAM in the peace negotiations with government, was expelled from the military group a few months ago when he threatened to pull out RAM and its allied organizations, the Young Officers Union and the Soldiers of the Filipino People, from the peace accord it signed with the Ramos administration in October 1995.

Abenina made the supposed threat amid reports last June that he may be sacked as LTO chief because of alleged anomalies and the "militarization" of the agency. Abenina allegedly staffed his office with a large number of Philippine National Police officers.

Abenina is also said to be the benefactor of controversial YOU chair Supt. Rafael Cardeno, whom Malacañang tagged as the leader of a destabilization plot last October.

Cardeno was detained overnight in Camp Crame at the height of reports that a destabilization campaign was brewing. Cardeno and his YOU associate Supt. Diosdado Valeroso were later summoned to the Palace to explain their roles in the alleged plot.

Cardeno was later relieved as Abenina's special assistant at LTO and directed to report to the PNP regional office in Western Visayas.

But according to military and police sources, Cardeno continues to report to Abenina.

In a letter addressed to Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, Calajate said RAM is fully committed to the peace agreement and is supportive of the Macapagal administration.

In his letter to Ms Macapagal, Calajate assured her of "our abiding faith in the new administration."

Calajate said Lim is "highly" qualified "having studied transportation at the United States Army Transportation School in Fort Eutis, Virginia."

Lim graduated at the top of his class.

Lim, former chief of staff of the 1st Scout Ranger Regiment, entered the military service in 1971 and has earned 47 medals, including two Gold Cross medals for bravery in action against Muslim secessionist rebels in the 1970s. He also has 75 commendations and plaques.

1 killed in riot

ONE inmate was killed while another was injured after jail guards fired several "warning shots" during a riot inside the Quezon City Jail on Tuesday. Victim Hughes Reed, 23, who has a pending robbery case, succumbed to a gunshot wound in the head about 7:15 p.m. Tuesday while undergoing surgery at the East Avenue Medical Center.

The other victim, Gerry Baylon, 19, sustained a gunshot on the left foot and is being treated in the same hospital. He was imprisoned for frustrated homicide.

Elements of the Central Police District and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) have yet to identify the jail guards who fired the shots. *Agnes Donato*

Matibag could help in Cinco slay probe

By Philip C. Tubeza

POLICE yesterday said former Commission on Elections (Comelec) director Angelina Matibag could drop by their office not as a prime suspect in the killing of her successor Velma Cinco, but as a concerned citizen who wants to help in the investigation.

"She said she wants to help. So if it's OK, she could come here, as a concerned citizen and not as a prime suspect," said Supt. Federico Castro, head of the Western Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Castro made the statement as Task Force C-5 (Comelec-Cinco) subpoenaed the three remaining suspects who are still at large.

They are former casual Comelec employees Carlo Tumambing, Rudy Fortich; and Matibag's former driver and security aide, Mario V. Francisco.

"But if she comes, it would be better if she could bring along these suspects," Castro said.

He said that Tumambing and Fortich worked for Matibag at the Comelec's education and information department. They were not rehired when Cinco replaced Matibag.

Castro said the three suspects should come out since they would just be questioned.

Cinco was shot dead in an ambush last Nov. 20 at the corner of Pedro Gil and Eden streets in Sta.

Ana, Manila while she was on her way to work on board her red Kia Pride (TDR 779) with her son Carlo and sister Marian S. Jayme.

Cinco, 62, died from four gun shot wounds in her head and body. Carlo was hit in his shoulder while Jayme was unhurt.

3,000 INC men to direct traffic

SOME 3,000 members of the Iglesia ni Cristo are set to be deployed in Metro Manila streets as traffic enforcers and environmental police.

The traffic enforcers are also members of the Society of Communicators and Networkers (SCAN), a civic and amateur radio group made up of INC members.

MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said the new traffic enforcers from SCAN would contribute greatly to effect a smoother traffic flow in the city's major thoroughfares since there is a lack of MMDA traffic enforcers on the road. He said the additional enforcers would also ease the traffic flow in the city during the Christmas season.

The group can also report to the MMDA streets and areas with uncollected garbage, illegal terminals and illegal vendors for immediate action.

Ronald Lam, president of SCAN, said their group would be able to assist motorists involved in accidents and other traffic incidents.

The group signed a memorandum of agreement with the MMDA and Abalos on Tuesday.

The group would also undergo a month's seminar on traffic rules and regulations to be conducted by the MMDA, the Traffic Management Group and the Traffic Enforcement Group.

Once they pass the seminar, the MMDA would distribute traffic tickets to the SCAN members, making them eligible to arrest traffic violators and issue them traffic tickets. *Alcuin Papa*

Alpha Phi reunion

THE ALPHA Phi Beta fraternity of the UP College of Law and the Phi Delta Alpha Sorority of the University of the Philippines will hold a joint grand homecoming cum Christmas party on Sunday at the UP Bahay ng Alumni.

The joint party, sponsored by the APB Alumni Association, will fete the enduring diamond (i.e., Cong. Lorenzo ("Komong") Sumulong) and Golden Alphans (i.e., Supreme Court Justice Abraham "Abe" Sarmiento), the Alphan lord chancellors emeriti and other distinguished Alphans.

For inquiries, brods and sis may call Manny Yngson (631-75-39), Tony Dogillo (292-4708), Sim Buyco (Tel. No. 812-9181) or Lito Santos (631-7540), Sis Edna Ypil (631-7541) or their respective year-of-entry representatives.

Osang won't go to jail

ROCES

By Nelson Flores

SHE didn't have to bare.

All sex bomb Rossana Roces had to fish out was a P10,000 bond to avoid doing time in jail after a Pasig City Regional Trial Court Judge issued an arrest warrant against her for a libel charge filed by a businessman.

Roces was indicted by government lawyers for libel after businessman Jonathan Manlongat filed charges against her for calling him a car thief in a television show.

Wearing tight blue jeans, black shirt and a pair of boots, Roces, who is Jennifer Molina in real life, posted bail shortly after 10 a.m. yesterday at the jampacked courtroom of Judge Abraham Boretta of RTC Branch 154. Boretta had issued the arrest warrant against the actress.

Adoring fans pushed each to catch a glimpse of the controversial star as she signed the documents for her bail.

Government lawyers said there was a prima facie evidence against Roces that warranted the filing of the case.

Boretta scheduled Roces' arraignment on Jan. 16. 2001.

Records showed that Joselito Manlongat filed the libel charge against Roces sometime in August after she described him as a "carnapper," in the July 7 episode of "Star Talk," on GMA 7 where Roces is one of the hosts.

Manlongat said Roces has no good intention and justifiable motive for saying the libelous remark. He said the remark caused him dishonor, besmirched his reputation and discredited him.

In answer to a question from one of her co-hosts, Manlongat quoted Roces as saying "Si Jojo Manlongat yon, yung carnapper (That is Jojo Manlongat, the car thief)."

In her counter affidavit, Roces said Manlongat has only himself to blame for his bad reputation. She maintained that her remark was "spontaneous" and that she only said it because it was really how she knew him.

Manlongat is suspected to be a member of the Valle Verde Gang, also known as the Fianza gang, an alleged criminal syndicate believed to be responsible for a series of car thefts in Metro Manila. Some of the members of the gang were arrested in an entrapment operation last year by the members of the now defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

LTO chief on way out

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

SO what if ransom was paid for the release of construction tycoon Reghis Romero II from his Abu Sayyaf kidnappers ?

The Erap administration paid ransom on the sly for some kidnap victims last year despite the government's no-ransom policy. What's wrong with some officials in the Macapagal-Arroyo administration taking it upon themselves to negotiate for the release of Romero, who's a friend of former President Ramos?

But what is dismaying is Sen. Sergio Osmeña III's revelation that part of the ransom went to some military officers and local government officials in Basilan.

Those military officers and local officials should be exposed and investigated.

***

It's possible that GMA did not know about the deal, otherwise she would not have allowed it. Probably some Palace officials made the ransom deal for Romero on their own without informing the big boss.

Osmeña could be telling the truth when he said some Palace officials took part in the negotiations with the bandit group Abu Sayyaf for the tycoon's release.

Those Palace officials should be sacked for violating the government's no-ransom policy.

***

The first violator of the no-ransom policy was the Erap administration. Not only was it a violator, it also shamelessly partook of the ransom for the kidnap victims.

News reporters covering last year's kidnap negotiations said that the government's chief negotiator Robert Aventajado made a big cut on the ransom payments. Part of the ransom money also went to the Sulu governor, according to some reporters.

Aventajado probably gave President Erap a big portion of the money he earned from his "commission." We all know that Erap was such a greedy chief executive he collected "tong" even from *jueteng*.

***

Speculations that Erap got a cut from the ransom payments for the release of the kidnap victims have some basis.

Consider this story which my source swears is true:

A couple approached Erap in Malacañang to ask his help in securing a permit to set up a gasoline station inside the sprawling Clark Economic Zone, the former US air base in Pampanga.

Erap called the Clark administrator at the time and told him to give the couple, who were his friends, a permit.

Several months later, the couple went back to Malacañang to thank Erap. The gas station was already operating and earning big money.

Erap looked at the couple and told them, "You didn't get that place for free. I'll have 60 percent of your net earnings from that station."

Ganoon kasiba si **Erap** *sa pera*!

***

Why has GMA gotten a "record high" rating in a recent survey made by the prestigious Social Weather Stations despite all those accusations against her and her husband, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo?

The answer is simple: People don't believe the accusations against their president. They know that the charges come from quarters eyeing the 2004 presidential elections.

The citizenry knows that GMA is "serious" in fighting terrorism, illegal drugs and corruption in government.

Macapagal-Arroyo's popularity has spilled over to the major agencies of government. These agencies also got high ratings.

***

Retired Constabulary Brig. Gen. Edgardo Abenina has packed up his things at the Land Transportation Office (LTO) on the assumption he is about to be kicked out.

There have been talks that the LTO chief will soon be replaced.

If you were President Macapagal-Arroyo, would you not sack a bureau director who keeps criticizing your administration?

Who wants a person who bites the hand that feeds him?

***

At the Bureau of Customs, insubordinate Collector Billy Bibit has finally been persuaded to leave his post at the Subic Freeport.

Bibit has consistently disobeyed an order from Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva transferring him to the Clark Economic Zone.

Marunong din palang mahiya si Bibit!

***

Villanueva, a kind man who's slow to anger, held closed-door meetings with Bibit at his office. He had the hardheaded customs official and his replacement, Ping Bartolome, talk between themselves.

But Bibit became more adamant after each meeting.

I heard his comrades at the former RAM (Reform the Armed Forces Movement) pressured Bibit into obeying an order from his superiors.

My sources say RAM members wanted to expel Bibit from their group because of his stubbornness.

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3	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
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2 (DTS)	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
4	THE SCORE

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4 (DTS)	SERENDIPITY

Lianas Cinema
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5	JEEEPERS CREEPERS

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3	TIKIM

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3	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO

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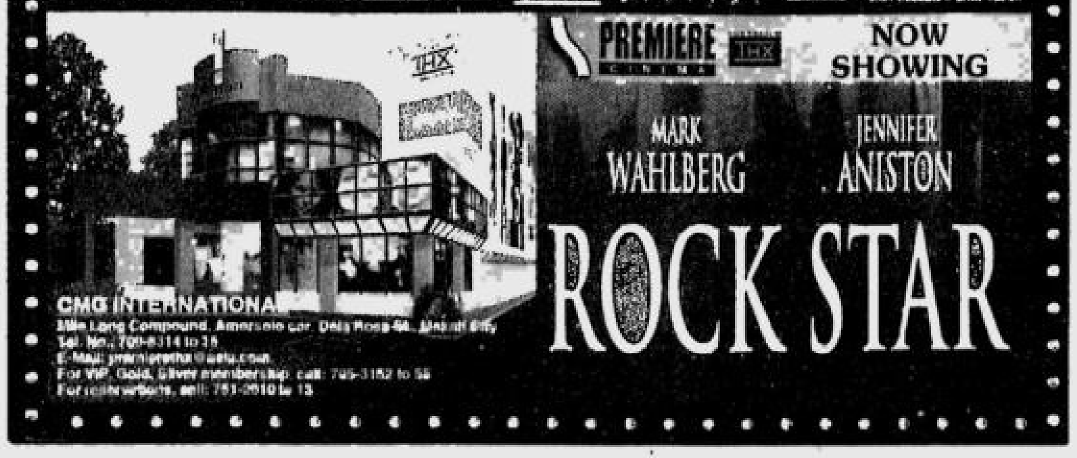

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8	MUSKETEER
9	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
10	IRON LADIES

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3	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	THE SCORE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	ROCKSTAR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
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FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	DREAM GIRL
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ROBEN	TIKIM
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	PUKYUTAN / STORY OF US
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	TIKIM
REMAR	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
REMAR-2	TIKIM
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
B	TIKIM
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	MONSTERS, INC.
CINEMA-2	HARRY POTTER
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KUMAKASA PUMUPUTOK
CINEMA-2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
CINEMA-3	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SERENDIPITY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MONSTER, INC.
CINEMA-6	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
CINEMA-7	TIKIM
CINEMA-8	IRON LADIES
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ROCKSTAR
CINEMA-12	MUSKETEER
CINEMA-14	DREAM GIRL
CINEMA-15	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	ROCKSTAR
CINEMA-2	MONSTERS, INC.
CINEMA-3	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-4	THE MUSKETEER
CINEMA-5	DREAM GIRL
CINEMA-6	THE SCORE
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

Side A campus tour

SIDE A Band goes to the extreme as it headlines a campus tour for Tahanang Walang Hagdanan, aptly titled "The Side A Band: Pushing Their Limits," which will kick off at the Football Field of Don Bosco Makati on Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m.

The campus tour aims to raise funds for Tahanang Walang Hagdanan (House With No Steps), a sheltered workshop, rehabilitation and skills training center which aims to train handicapped people to be productive and self-reliant members of the community.

The campus tour will also have performances in several schools and universities next year.

For inquiries, call Diane at Tahanang Walang Hagdanan, 655-0059 or 240-2130.

Yuletide promo

SKYCABLE and Home Cable will give away raffle prizes to their loyal subscribers in their biggest-ever Christmas promo, "Araw-Araw Pasko," with P6-million worth of prizes at stake.

All subscribers have to do is keep their subscription active (no past due) and they have a chance to win in the daily, weekly or grand draw.

There will be 300 winners drawn daily and 150 winners weekly. Daily and weekly winners get gift checks worth P300 and P1,000. The grand prize is a Mitsubishi Galant, to be drawn on Jan. 7, 2002. Promo runs until Dec. 31.

For more information, call SkyCable Customer Center at 636-7591 or Home Cable Customer Care at 727-4663.

Christmas concert

MANILA Broadcasting Company (MBC), the country's largest radio network, celebrates an early Christmas by presenting a free concert, Dec. 9 (Sunday), 4 p.m. at the Folk Arts Theater.

Listeners will enjoy an afternoon of entertainment, fun and great music with artists Von Arroyo, Toni Gonzaga, Rea Valle, Yamani, Judy Ann Santos and Side A.

Comedienne Ai-Ai de las Alas hosts the free concert.

MBC's Christmas concert is a joint effort of MBC stations namely dzRH, Love Radio 90.7 and Yes-FM 101.1.

Playwriting contest

WINGS Entertainment announces its playwriting contest 2002.

Writers are invited to submit their full-length plays (consisting of two or more acts) on any subject matter.

All entries should be submitted in three copies, typewritten, double-spaced, on a regular-sized bond paper.

Manuscripts must be written either in Tagalog or English. They must include the author's name, address, contact number and a comprehensive bio data.

Play scripts must be submitted to Wings Entertainment c/o Act Enteratinment Inc., Rm. 1543 Mega Plaza Bldg., ADB Ave. cor. Garnet st., Ortigas Center, Pasig City (at the back of Robinson's Galleria).

For inquiries, call 687-1855 or 687-1856.

Deadline for submission of entries is on Feb. 28, 2002.

Crossover supports Filipino talents in new compilation album

VIVA Music Group and the Mareco Broads Network Inc. release the album "Closer to Home 2."

A joint undertaking between Viva Records and radio station Crossover 105.1, the all-star collection once more combines Crossover's brand of music together with some of the best talents we have in the country today.

With the release of the album, Mareco President and chief operating officer Louie P. Villar Jr. reiterates his Wholehearted support of Filipino talents.

"Since the release of the first edition of 'Closer to Home,' Crossover has further strengthened its commitment to highlight the talent of the Filipino artist. Aside from adding more local artists to its playlist, the network has also featured many of our very own singers and musicians in quality live productions. In fact, many of the artists in this compilation have graced Crossover shows."

Featured songs in "Closer to Home 2" are "Doors" by Sharon Cuneta, "I Don't Wanna Miss a Thing" by Regine Velasquez, "I Can Let Go Now" by Jaya, "Love Is Here" by Freestyle, "Neither One of Us" by Lani Misalucha, "As If We Never Said Goodbye" by Marco Sison, "Shower the People" by Zsa Zsa Padilla, "Forget 2 Forget" by Janno Gibbs, "Don't Give Up on Us Baby" by Kuh Ledesma, "Light and Shade" by Wiseguys, "For Everything" by Rachel Alejandro, "Fallin" by Pops Fernandez and "Someone's Waiting for You" by Donna Cruz.

Recorded expressly for the album is the Mon Espia original, "Into Your Groove" by Seven.

Aiko stages benefit concert

ACTRESS and Quezon City Councilor Aiko Melendez holds a benefit birthday concert, "Handog ni Sinta Para sa mga Bata," Dec. 17, 8 p.m. at Bahay ng Alumni at UP Diliman, Quezon City.

Aiko is tagged "Sinta" in the 2nd District of Quezon City.

Proceeds of her birthday-concert will help finance the construction of the Constitution Day Care Center and the Talacom Day Care Center.

Aiko's friends in show biz have offered to perform in the concert for free. Among the featured performers are Rosanna Roces, Ariel Rivera, Gelli de Belen, Carmina Villarroel, Willie Revillame, Bituin Escalante, Pido with Take One, Zoren Legaspi, Ian Veneracion, Arnell Ignacio, Calvin Millado, Stella Ruiz, Lee Robin Salazar, Ciara Sotto, Trina Zuñiga and Paolo Contis.

Comedians Rey Kilay and Philip Lazaro will provide comic relief in the show, to be directed by Andrew de Real.

Supporting the concert are sponsors Pagcor, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), Thai In A Box, with Alaska Corporation and Real Ban as minor sponsors

Ticket prices are P500, P300 and P150.

Andrei, Aiko's three-year-old son with actor Jomari Yllana, will also have a special participation in the show.

For ticket reservation and sponsorship, call 922-0876 or Nextel 0979-5330203. Or text 0919-4800058.

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ROCKSTAR - P 13 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40	MONSTERS, INC. - GP 11:05, 1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30	HARRY POTTER - GP 12:40, 3:50, 7:00, 10:10
THE MUSKETEER - P 13 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	DREAM GIRL - R 18 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30	THE SCORE - R 18 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00

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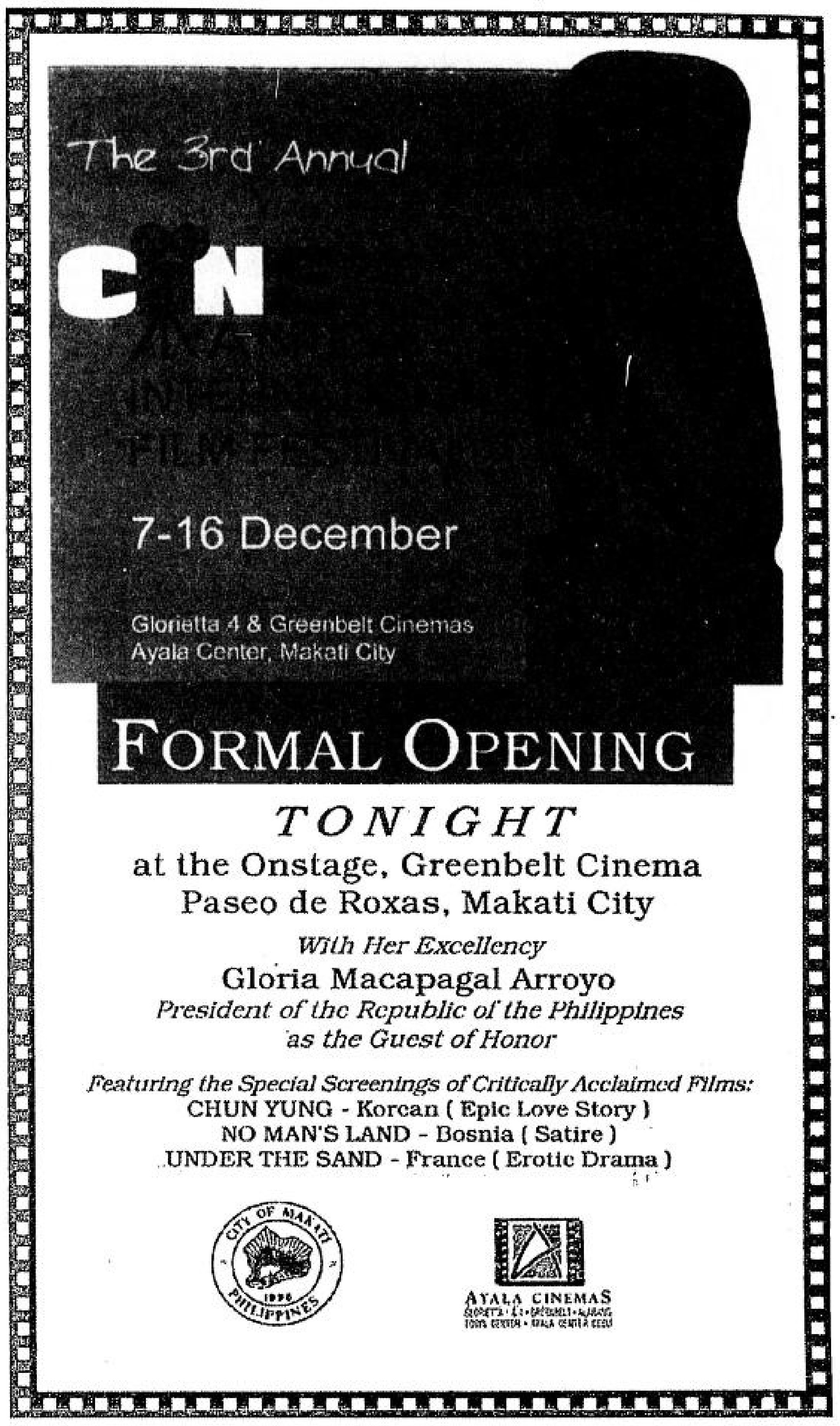

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With Her Excellency
Gloria Macapagal Arroyo
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SagipAgad Sa Tulong Mo!

Special Report on 54 years of Philippine National Red Cross

Red Cross 24th Biennial Confab Opens

Movement Urged To Go 'Back-To-Basics'

More than 500 delegates-workers from all over the Philippines will gather today for the Philippine National Red Cross 24th Biennial National Convention at the Manila Hotel. With Education Secretary Raul Roco as principal opening ceremonies guest, the 54th year conference will review the PNRC's past year activities and take up most pressing issues confronting the organization - how to cope with the perennially looming threat of greater logistical needs to fund its unabated efforts to lend a helping hand to all victims of calamities and disasters that continue to befall this country year in and year out.

Theme of this year's convention is "Towards Attaining Greater Heights in Humanitarian Service."

The Philippine National Red Cross' newly-adopted battle cry - ***Sagip Agad Sa Tulong Mo!*** -offers some idea as to how the organization hopes to cope with the growing need of the nation's growing population of vulnerable people.

The Red Cross Movement is an independent movement. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the movement, one of which is independence.

And throughout its 54 years of existence as the country's premier humanitarian organization, the Philippine National Red Cross maintained its independence, relying on its own ability to generate funds and other resources to continue delivering its humanitarian services. Because of the enormous challenges the PNRC faces, it cannot do the job of helping those in need without the support of the charitable among us and all potential beneficiaries. Hence, the new battle cry ***Sagip Agad Sa Tulong Mo!***

SagipAgad

Sa Tulong Mo!

Millions of Beneficiaries

Not unlike the daunting experience of the International Red Cross since after the infamous Sept. 11 World Trade Disaster in New York, USA, our own national Red Cross has maintained its record of being always the first to respond to cries for help from the citizenry.

In the past five years alone, the Philippine National Red Cross records show it has extended crucial aid (emergency funds, food clothing, blood, medicines, medical and emergency services) to millions of citizens who were victimized by national disasters and calamities that came without warning and also left millions of emotionally and physically traumatized citizens in their wake.

These disasters and calamities include the Mt. Pinatubo and Mayon eruptions, Ormoc flooding, Payatas tragedy, Manor Hotel fire, Camiguin flooding, and the Mindanao conflict.

More Than Half a Century of Lending a Hand; Giving Aid

Since its inception 54 years ago, the Philippine National Red Cross has toiled endlessly to meet its self-imposed mission to help all victims of national disasters and calamities with free medicines, food, clothing, shelter and medical assistance whenever and anywhere these are needed. Now, PNRC's ability to continue and perform its mission has become even more strained by the contraction of both our national and international economies.

This is compounded by the severely dwindled traditional resource of Red Cross donors from overseas and here in the Philippines. The trend points to a threatening possible end to PNRC's 54 years of existence.

Recent research conducted among large corporations known to always respond to "calls for help" show an increasing number as now afflicted with the dreaded "donation fatigue."

The late President Manuel Roxas (top photo) delivering his speech during the inauguration of the establishment of the Philippine National Red Cross in Malacañang Palace on April 14, 1947. Also shown are then Vice President Elpidio Quirino and Doña Aurora A. Quezon. Above, the PNRC headquarters on Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila. The PNRC today has 86 chapters nationwide ready to serve the needs of the many vulnerable people throughout the country through its wide-range humanitarian services.

PNRC and the RP Government

Meanwhile, and contrary to the popular notion of many citizens, the Philippine National Red Cross does not and has never received a centavo from the national budget. Its main and only source of logistics has always been the local "kind hearts" and its overseas donors, principally from the US, Japan and Europe.

Hence principal among the issues that will be taken up at today's Red Cross National Biennial Convention is PNRC's discernibly waning prospects for continuing its legendary role - as the leading charity organization of the Philippines. Some of the conferees are expected to bell the cat's tail on the uniquely Philippine National Red Cross' challenge - not experienced by its counterparts overseas - of a citizenry that has become indifferent to the time honored Philippine values of love for neighbor and assistance to the less fortunate, especially the rural-folk victims of calamities and national disasters.

The Philippine National Red Cross challenge today is to come up with new and practical suggestions on what its current leadership and its dedicated volunteers can do to promote a stronger spirit of volunteerism in the average Filipino.

As we went to press, Chairman of the PNRC Board of Governors and former justice Leonor Ines Luciano has this to say about the chief challenge faced by the Philippine National Red Cross, "THE SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM IN THE FILIPINO IS ALIVE AND WELL!"

"TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT OUR 'BAYANIHAN' CONCEPT - THE DISTINCTLY FILIPINO COMMUNITY ACT OF HELPING A NEIGHBOR - IT IS THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER MARK OF THE FILIPINO, YOUNG OR OLD, POOR OR RICH. FOR THE RIGHT CAUSE, ALL FILIPINOS RESPOND GENEROUSLY!"

MESSAGES

My warmest greetings goes to all the dedicated key players of the Philippine National Red Cross while you gather as one committed family on your 24th Biennial National Convention.

As PNRC Honorary President, it is my honor to be identified with an organization that has proven to be a consistent and valuable humanitarian auxiliary to the government. Your achievement of compassionate service merits nationwide recognition and generous public support. Every Filipino should take pride in joining the Red Cross, either as a volunteer or donor.

I wish you a resounding success as you chart the strategic programs of your organization's aim "Towards Attaining Greater Heights in Humanitarian Service." You can be certain that, in all your undertaking to help build the capabilities of the vulnerable to cope with disasters and other emergencies, the government is with you and for you.

In the spirit of working together for the cause of humanity, I exhort you to always give your very best in giving assistance to our countrymen who are in urgent need.

Mabuhay to the Red Cross family!

GMArroyo
Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President
Republic of the Philippines

Today we open the three-day 24th Biennial Convention of the Philippine National Red Cross.

This occasion is a witness to the continuing commitment of the PNRC to help meet the needs of the most vulnerable of our countrymen through its wide-range humanitarian services. This is also the time for us to set strategic directions of our organization as we continue to live up to the vision of Henry Dunant, the founder and the moving spirit behind the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement.

In times when the sailing gets rough, the PNRC stood its ground and this is made possible through the commitment of your Board, staff, volunteers and of course the donors, to the cause of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement.

I hope that this convention will continue to inspire us to continue serving our less fortunate brothers and sisters.

Leonor Ines Luciano
Chairman
PNRC Board of Governors

Warm greetings and congratulations to all participants to the 24th Biennial Annual Convention of the Philippine National Red Cross.

During the past two years, the PNRC continued to expand its humanitarian services to the most vulnerable of our countrymen. We were able to expand our humanitarian services, enabling us to reach more of our target clients. This was made possible by the continuing support of our staff, chapters, volunteers and donors.

As we look forward to the next two years, I am confident that we will be able to establish more linkages and partnerships not only with donors, but more importantly with our clients - the most vulnerable among us - in order that the Philippine National Red Cross can perform more effectively.

Merry Christmas!

Lourdes R. Loyola
Secretary General

The Red Cross Movement In The Philippines

The Red Cross Movement in the Philippines dates back to the year 1905 when Filipino and American leaders in Manila formally convened to organize the Philippine Branch of the American Red Cross.

Earlier, however, the Red Cross ideal of service had already been put to practice by illustrious Filipino women during the revolution against Spain and during the Filipino-American War. These women voluntarily ministered to the wounded and the sick among the fighting forces.

In 1899, they formed a Filipino Red Cross Association which maintained emergency hospitals and clinics for civilians and the military, and collected food, clothing and medical supplies for them.

After years of pioneering work on the part of the Filipinos and Americans alike, the branch in the Philippines was officially recognized as an Insular Chapter of the American Red Cross in 1917. Gradually it grew to become a potent social force touching the life of the Philippines and its people. Its services were disaster relief, health and safety and school dental service.

Attempts to establish an autonomous Philippine Red Cross were initiated in 1934 by the late Commonwealth President Manuel L. Quezon. But not until 1947 did this dream materialize. One major disruptive factor was the outbreak of the war in 1941. At that time, the Philippine Red Cross was incorporated into the Civil Emergency Administration, an agency created by the government to assist in wartime humanitarian efforts. For the first time, the Philippine Red Cross opened a Medical Service Department. It had eight emergency hospitals in Manila and hundreds of first aid units.

When the Japanese entered Manila, the Philippine Red Cross converted the University of Santo Tomas into an internment camp. It supplied foodstuffs and set up a Japanese-controlled Philippine Red Cross.

Upon the liberation of Manila in 1945, local Red Cross officials and the American Red Cross undertook to reconstitute the organization. On December 1, 1946, 36 Red Cross chapters were initially set up in the country. Dr. J. Horacio Yanzon, the first Filipino Red Cross manager, was appointed.

On February 1, 1947, the late President Manuel Roxas signed the Treaty of Geneva and the Prisoners of War Convention.

Two months later on March 22, Roxas signed the Philippine National Red Cross Charter, Republic Act 95, officially establishing the PNRC. On March 29, Mrs. Aurora Aragon Quezon, the first PNRC chairman, received a cable from Geneva indicating that the ICRC has recognized the PNRC.

On April 14, 1947, the establishment of the Philippine National Red Cross was inaugurated in colorful ceremonies at Malacañang Palace. The PNRC was admitted as a bonafide member of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (now known as the Federation) on September 17, 1947.

Since then, the PNRC vigorously pursued its mission of alleviating human suffering and protecting life and dignity without discrimination. It celebrated its 50th anniversary on April 17, 1997. Today, it has 86 chapters nationwide ready to serve the needs of the many vulnerable people throughout the country through its wide-range humanitarian services.

The yearly increase in blood collection has consistently kept PNRC as the single biggest supplier of safe blood in the country. Last year, PNRC collected a total of 116, 479 units of blood from both individual and corporate blood donors. Its Blood Services was able to serve 66,543 patients from around 900 hospitals across the nation. Gov. Rosa Rosal (right photo) talks to a donor during one of PNRC's blood collection activity.

CONVENTION PROGRAM

Day 1 - December 5, Wednesday: Registration, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM, PNRC Board Room, NHQ, Port Area, Manila; Welcome Reception, 5:00 PM, PNRC Headquarters; Coronation Ceremonies Millennium Ms. Philippine National Red Cross, Centennial Hall, Manila Hotel, 7:00 PM; ***Day 2 - December 6, Thursday:*** Registration (continuation), Manila Hotel, 8:00 AM; Opening of Exhibits, 8:30 AM; Cutting of the Ribbon; Opening Ceremonies, Polkabal Hall, 9:00 AM; First Plenary Session, Polkabal and Pandanggo Hall, 10:00-10:45 AM; Break, 10:45-11:00 AM; Second Plenary Session, 11:00-12:45 PM; Luncheon, 12:45-2:00 PM; Announcement of the Recipients of the Highest Chapter Awards for Year 2000-2001 (Merit Medal, Silver and Gold); ***Day 3 - December 7, Friday:*** Third Plenary Session, Polkabal Hall, 9:00-10:30 AM; Break, 10:30-10:45 AM; Presentation of Candidates for Board of Governors, Gov. Rosa Rosal, Chairman, Committee on Nominations and Election, 11:15 AM-12:00 NN; Luncheon, Pandanggo Ballroom, 12:00-2:00 PM; Fourth Plenary Session, 2:00-2:30 PM; Election, Pandanggo Ballroom, 2:30-4:30 PM; Canvassing of Votes, Sampaguita Hall, 4:30-7:00 PM; Convention Dinner, Pandanggo Ballroom, 7:00 PM; Presentation of the Gold and Silver Humanitarian Service Cross Awards; Announcement of the Election of Members of the Board of Governors, Gov. Rosa Rosal; Closing of the Convention, Gov. Leonardo B. Fugoso.

From The Board of Governors

Our warmest congratulations to all participants to this year's 24th Biennial National Convention of the Philippine National Red Cross.

The past two years have been very challenging to the PNRC. But no matter how challenging the task we faced, we continued to serve with more dedication and commitment. It is now, therefore, important for all of us to focus our vision on the challenges ahead of us, particularly in disaster preparedness and relief. We are happy to inform all of you that your board will continue to enhance and maintain our leadership as the leading organization in humanitarian services. And we will continue to build a dynamic organization that is constantly improving the delivery of its services across the nation.

We wish you all the best of the Yuletide Season.

Seated L-R: M.R. Nery; L.A. Aurello; R.Rosal; Justice L.I. Luciano; Gen. R.C. Espino; Sec. R.S. Golez; L.C. Quezon
Standing L-R: Gen. J.L. Canotoy; D.B. Tirol; J.O. Orros, Jr.; Sen. M.B. Villar; Sec. R.J. Gordon; L.B. Fugoso; M. Prieto; L.P. Kapunan; L.B. Ortiz; Y.M. Hoffman; R.Y. Lerias; Princess J.D. Pangarungan; S.O. Pagdanganan; A.M.K. Periquel; D.V. Liban; M.R. Jimenez; G.T.Yang; J.G. Puyat, Jr.; H.C. Dy; A.C. Pabayo; R.F. Bentulan

Special Report on 54 years of Philippine National Red Cross

Two-Year Review: PNRC focuses on capacity-building for people at risk

True to its tradition of compassion, the PNRC is consistently living up to its commitment to help the government improve the lives of the most vulnerable people in communities across the country. Through its increasingly innovative services focusing on urgent needs, the PNRC touched the lives of around 1.5 million beneficiaries over the past two years.

Largely contributory to PNRC's service delivery efficiency were donors, local and international, and thousands of well-trained and highly motivated volunteers, mostly community-based. Together they make up its key partners in saving lives and easing suffering.

The following is a summary of PNRC's achievements in 2000-2001:

Community-based Disaster Management

Disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation at community level have become the core areas of Red Cross intervention in recent years. These coping mechanisms are now in place and working well in the most disaster-prone communities in Benguet, Southern Leyte, Palawan and Surigao del Norte, the first priority project areas under the PNRC trendsetting initiative known as Integrated Community Disaster Planning Programme (ICDPP) which started in 1995 and funded by the Danish Red Cross. ICDPP is integrated into PNRC's Disaster Management Services. Greatly enhancing the program's impact on community development are the people themselves who are playing a significant role. The most active of them is the Red Cross-trained core group of volunteers who work as barangay disaster action teams.

The PNRC was also active in the rescue and relief operations during the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo and the Ormoc floods which killed hundreds of people and displaced thousands of families.

One vital component of ICDPP is the installation of relevant mitigation projects such as concrete pathways over rugged terrain, hanging bridges, communal toilets, water systems, sea walls, river dikes, canals, evacuation centers and health centers. These were built by the people themselves in the spirit of bayanihan. For their part, the concerned Local Government Units (LGUs) provided counterpart funding support.

In the past two years, sustainability of the program was given impetus to the point that some other communities in the four target provinces were also covered. Now that ICDPP has been developed into a model for community-based approaches, the PNRC is getting ready to extend it to other vulnerable provinces. What it needs is the support of more donors.

This year, the program is being carried out in Payatas, Quezon City to test its impact in an urban setting.

In easing suffering, the PNRC responded to the emergency relief and health needs of 1.5 million displaced victims of disasters like the eruption of Mayon volcano, typhoons, fires and the latest floods that hit Camiguin and other areas.

To bolster its response capability even more, the PNRC has chapter-based disaster response teams apart from a network of warehouses and transport and communication facilities.

Saving lives through Safe Blood

Through its Blood Services, the PNRC recruited more healthy people to donate blood voluntarily. As a result, it collected around 250,000 units of safe blood enough to serve more than 100,000 patients in need.

At the same time, the PNRC upgraded the facilities of some of its regional and chapter-based blood centers to improve their lifesaving capability. One of the state-of-the art equipment installed is called "Apheresis." This machine has revolutionized the Red Cross efficiency to draw any desired blood component directly from the donors.

In the past two years, the beneficiaries were mostly dengue and leukemia patients.

The Need for Safety Practitioners

As the only organization accredited by the government to teach corporate safety, the PNRC has made it a priority goal to train trainors to serve in their own workplace. As a result, practically all business establishments in Metro Manila and other key cities in the countryside have been helped by the Red Cross.

Disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation at community level have become the major activities of the Red Cross in recent years. Through the Integrated Community Disaster Planning Programme (ICDPP), the PNRC constructed seawall in southern Leyte (left photo) to help minimize the impact of natural calamities such as typhoons. Right photo shows a Red Cross volunteer talking to evacuees during Typhoon Nanang's onslaught in Camiguin.

Red Cross safety courses are open to the general public. During the period under review, more than 150,000 people from all walks of life got accredited as new safety practitioners. Most of them have joined the rank of community-based volunteers.

Across the country, Red Cross first aiders and rescuers responded to every disaster that broke out in their communities. Worth mentioning were the Payatas tragedy last year and the Manor Hotel fire incident this year.

Focusing on Health Care Efficiency

In the remote and less developed rural areas, the PNRC continued to help the government address the basic health needs of the inhabitants. Mobilized to doing this is its Community Health and Nursing Service.

Of great value here is the training of volunteer barangay health workers to serve in their own villages. As community-based volunteers, they promote both preventive and curative aspects of health care.

Examples of this ongoing PNRC initiative are the Japanese Red Cross funded primary health care program covering 23 provinces and a similar one, specifically for indigenous people or cultural minorities in at least six provinces that is funded by the Spanish Red Cross. The strategy is to train the village leaders on community health management.

Millennium Miss Philippines Red Cross. The Philippine National Red Cross launched this year the Millennium Miss Philippines Red Cross 2001 to search for an Ambassador of Humanitarian Servide among the young Filipina volunteers of the Red Cross. Chair of the special event is Margarita 'TingTing' Cojuangco (right) receiving a donation from Manila Mayor Lito Atienza. Co-chair is Red Cross Governor and Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon. A total of 39 candidates aged 18-25 years representing the different Red Cross chapters will vie for the title. The winner will also be given a round-trip ticket for two to the USA. The participating chapters are Agusan del Norte, Antique, Bataan, Bukidnon, Bulacan, Caloocan City, Camarines Norte, Capiz, Cebu, Cotabato, General Santos City, Guimaras, Ilocos Norte, Ilocs Sur, Iloilo, Laguna, La Union, Leyte, Manila, Misamis Occidental, Negros Occidental, Northern Samar, Nueva Ecija, Olongapo City, Ozamis City, Palawan, Pangasinan, Pasay City, Quezon City, Quezon-Lucena City, Rizal Siquijor, Southern Leyte, Surigao del Norte, Tarlac, Zambales, Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Norte and Zamboanga del Sur. Pageant sponsors are Manila Hotel, Unilever Phils.,Inc. PAGCOR, Porche Jeans, Unilab Inc, Nestle Phils., PCSO, Northwest Airlines, Belco Marketing Corporation, Cathay Pacific Airways, Fashion Designers Association of the Philippines (FDAP), Kamiseta, Mayor Lito Atienza, Golden Vhine, De Capricho, Philippine Rabbit, Cabalen Restaurant, Via Mare, Whistle Stop, Tapa King, McDonald, DARE Kiosk and Guzman, Bocaling and Company.

Volunteerism: The Force Behind PNRC

As the premier humanitarian organization in the country that responds to the needs of the most vulnerable Filipinos, the Philippine National Red Cross draws its efficiency from its rich volunteer resources made up of two distinct groups - the administrative volunteers, that is the Board of Governors and Board of Directors, and the direct service volunteers.

In fact, volunteerism is one of the seven fundamental principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. This principle says, "It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain."

At national level, the Board of Governors is the governing policy-making body. In the chapters, the Board of Directors is the counterpart of the Board of Governors. In general, these volunteer leaders are either elected or selected to the Board. They are provided the necessary orientation on all facets of Red Cross work by the Volunteer Service, thereby enhancing their effectiveness.

Most of the time, the Volunteer Service focuses its attention on coordinating the PNRC system of recruitment, training and placement or mobilization of volunteer service providers. During big-scale operations, mostly disaster-related, it makes sure that the PNRC has enough volunteers to mobilize.

These volunteers have already been trained before in such areas of expertise as disaster nursing, community disaster management, rescue and first aid, and other Red Cross skills such as basic health care.

One of the organization's formidable teams of direct service volunteers belongs to the Specialized Volunteer Service (SVS). They represent the professional sector yet their training in Red Cross is well-rounded, making them capable of assisting in various activities.

The last main event of the Volunteer Service is the Conference and Symposium on December 5 to mark the closing of the International Year of Volunteers 2001 as proclaimed by the United Nations. The Philippine observance was further enhanced by Presidential Proclamation 425 declaring 2001 also as National Year of Volunteers. More than 5,000 new volunteers were recruited throughout the country during the year's celebration.

Millennium Partners

The Millennium Partners are donors who commit to donate P1,000,000.00 to the Philippine National Red Cross every year for five years. Initiated by Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, chair, PNRC Fund Raising Committee, the idea is not only to "beg" funds from these donors, but also to partner with them. By partnering with them, PNRC will train employees of donors on basic skills in mission activities such as blood letting/donation, and civic activities. In the future, these trained employees will be able to participate in all PNRC activities.

The seven companies who have committed to donate P1 million for five years are Del Monte Phils. Inc., MetroBank Foundation, National Bookstore, PLDT, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Shell Phils. Exploration B. V., Anonymous, and Unilever Phils., Inc. As millennium partners, the donors can use PNRC logo in their social responsibility projects.

In Disasters, Conflicts

Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement Frontliners In Rescue Operations

During disasters or armed conflicts, men and women wearing clothes and head gears marked with red cross or red crescent are seen tending to the dead or wounded. They are members of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, a worldwide movement which traces its roots to the vision and determination of one man more than a century and half ago.

On June 24, 1859 in Solferino, a town in northern Italy, the Austrian and French armies were locked in a bitter battle and, after 16 hours of fighting, the ground was strewn with 40,000 dead and wounded. That same evening, Henry Dunant, a Swiss citizen, passed through the area on business. He was horrified by the sight of thousands of soldiers from both armies left to suffer. He appealed to the local people to help him tend the wounded, insisting that soldiers on both side should be cared for.

On his return to Switzerland, Dunant published A Memory of Solferino, in which he made two solemn appeals:

- for relief societies to be formed in peacetime, with nurses who would be ready to care for the wounded in wartime, and

- for these volunteers, who would be called upon to assist the army medical services, to be recognized and protected through international agreement.

In 1863, the Geneva Society for Public Welfare, a charitable association based in the Swiss city of the same name, set up a five-member commission to consider how Dunant's ideas might be implemented. This commission - made up of Gustave Moynier, Guillaume-Henri Dufour, Louis Appia, Theodore Maunoir and Dunant himself - founded the International Committee for Relief to the Wounded, which later became the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is guided by Seven Fundamental Principles - humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality. Red Cross and Red Crescent activities have one central purpose: to prevent and alleviate human suffering without discrimination, and to protect human dignity.

The Movement is made up of:
- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (National Societies); and
- The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (Federation)

The International Committee of the Red Cross is the Movement's founding body. In addition to carrying out operational activities to protect and assist victims of war, it is the promoter and custodian of the Fundamental Principles. In cooperation with the Federation; it organizes the Movement's statutory meetings.

National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies embody the work and principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in about 180 countries. National Societies act as auxiliaries to the public authorities of their own countries in the humanitarian field and provide a range of services including disaster relief and health and social programs.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies works on the basis of the Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to inspire, facilitate and promote all humanitarian activities carried out by its member National Societies to improve the situation of the most vulnerable people.

Founded in 1919, the Federation directs and coordinates international assistance to the Movement to victims of natural and technological disasters, to refugees and in health emergencies. It acts as the official representative of its member societies in the international field and social programs.

From the very beginning, the ICRC's founders recognized the need for a single, universal and easily recognizable emblem familiar to all. The emblem had to protect not only persons wounded in battle, but also those bringing them aid. It was also to protect all medical units, including those of the enemy. The idea was that the mere sight of it would prompt combatants to show restraint and respect. The red cross on a white ground (the reverse of the Swiss national flag) was adopted by the International Conference of 1863 as the distinctive sign of relief to wounded soldiers. A year later, it was recognized by a Diplomatic Conference as the distinctive sign of army medical services, and sanctioned by humanitarian law with the adoption of the Geneva Convention of 1864.

However, in 1876, the Ottoman Empire decided to use a red crescent instead of the red cross. Several States followed suit and in 1929 the red crescent in turn was granted official recognition, along with the red lion and sun used by Iran at the time (not currently in use).

Today, all of the 178 National Societies use either the red cross or red crescent to identify themselves.

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From a "Philanthropist"

Sagip*Agad* THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RED CROSS Sa Tulong NINYO!

After a record-breaking concert, Martin Nievera sings for peace

By Leah Salterio

MR. ENTERTAINER. Martin Nievera says there should be entertainment particularly when times are down.

WORK is indeed concert king Martin Nievera's priority. This year, he performed in nearly 50 local concerts. And the year isn't even over yet.

After a record-breaking 30-night series at Onstage in Greenbelt, Makati, he ends the year with a major concert, "A Song for Peace," on Dec. 14 and 15 at the PICC Plenary Hall.

Martin recreates the magic of his birthday concert at the Cultural Center of the Philippines last year as he performs with a 100-member chorale and a 50-piece philharmonic orchestra in "A Song for Peace," with Louie Ocampo as conductor and musical director.

Lea Salonga is his guest on Dec. 15.

"She is coming from a very busy schedule in Los Angeles," he says. "I think from the plane she goes straight to the stage. We cannot even commit to the audience what she can do. There may not even be a duet, but I'm hoping there will be."

Lea expressed her desire to have Martin as her guest in her own concert on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, 2002, also at the PICC. And Martin is only too willing to do it.

"I would love to be her guest in her show," he says. "I'd even pay her so she'd get me in her show. I'd love to do with her a medley of songs from 'Miss Saigon.' I know she's sick of it, but 'Miss Saigon' was one of the highlights of show biz this year, so I'd like to pay tribute to Lea by singing those songs with her."

Lani Misalucha will perform with him on Dec. 14.

Martin is thankful that despite the economic slump, artists like him are still in demand in the concert circuit.

"When times are down, you really need entertainment," he says. "We are like soldiers who entertain. What people don't know is that we lower our fees, so more producers will be encouraged to produce shows.

"I've done nearly 50 shows this year and being burned out is not just in my vocabulary. I've been burned out in other aspects of my life that's why I remain passionate about performing."

He recently earned another platinum award for his latest album, "My Souvenirs." The success of the CD prompted his recording label, MCA Universal, to come out with an immediate follow-up, "More Souvenirs," which contains cover hits relevant to Martin's life.

"More Souvenirs" also carries new Yuletide tunes which he wrote, like "Can't Stop Christmas" which has been adopted as Gift Gate's Christmas theme, and "All I Want (This Christmas)."

"Simply Amazing" is a new tune that Smart Communications will use in a commercial. Martin will endorse Smart next year.

He wrote "My Heart's Song" for the victims of the Sept. 11 World Trade Center attacks. MCA Universal released a CD single of the song, which President Macapagal-Arroyo personally handed to US President George W. Bush and New York Mayor Rudy Giulliani during her recent US visit.

Martin distributed copies of the CD single during the fund-raising concert he did for the families of the WTC victims, at Long Island in New York last Dec. 2.

"More Souvenirs" also offers a special VCD of excerpts from his smash concerts: "What a Wonderful World" and "Our Father/Believe" from "XVII," "The Harder I Try" and "Love Me for What I Am" from "XVIII," and music videos of "We Don't Know How (To Say Goodbye)" and "You're My Everything."

Martin's next album will contain compositions by Brian McKnight, who wrote 12 songs for him.

"MCA Universal has plans for me and Brian to record a duet," he says.

Aside from McKnight, however, other foreign songwriters who offer their original works to him do not easily lure Martin.

"It's easy to say yes, but what happens to our local composers," he says. "We should give jobs to Filipino songwriters."

His two-night concert is produced by Maxi-Media International.

Boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: What's the best way to go to Heaven?

Guest: Work hard everyday!

Second guest: Say your prayers all the time.

Third guest: You have to die! (First things first!)

* * *

Host: I hear your family is very much into sports?

Guest: Yes, in fact, we have produced a very fast runner who participated in the last national games.

Host: That's great!

Guest: Yes! The only problem was, *hindi siya nanalo.*

(That's a big problem!)

* * *

Host: Your daughter has had two kids out of wedlock. What can she do for you to forgive her?

Guest: I've already forgiven her. After all, my daughter is just like all other young people out there.

(Well, excuse us!)

* * *

Host: And now, here's the most popular *kontrabida* character on TV soap operas today—Ms Amoy Pawis!

(That's *Amor Powers*, darling!)

* * *

Host: What would you like to say to our birthday boy tonight, coming deep from a mother's heart like yours?

Guest: I want to thank him because he's every son a mother would want to have!

(Huh? Please repeat?)

* * *

And now, from the booboo-prone world of TV quiz shows, our latest harvest of funny boners:

Quizmaster: When do flagellants whip themselves to atone for their sins or to fulfill a pledge? What time of year?

Contestant: New Year!

(Happy New Year!—ouch!)

* * *

Quizmaster: What's the world's longest river?

Contestant: Pasig River!

(Wrong—and it's certainly not the deepest, either.)

* * *

Quizmaster: What's another name for old clothes?

Contestant: Doggie0 bag!

(Woof!)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ano ang gamot na mabibili kahit walang* doctor's prescription?

Contestant: *Reseta*! (*Isa ka pa.*)

* * *

Quizmaster: What's the biggest lake in the Philippines?

Contestant: Ocean! (Duh . . .)

* * *

Quizmaster: **Oliver Stone** is the husband of **Sharon Stone**—true or false?

Contestant: True. (Says *you*!)

'Magnificat'

"MAGNIFICAT," **Ryan Cayabyab**'s acclaimed religious musical, will be performed at 8 p.m. on Dec. 7 at, the Malolos Cathedral patio, on the occasion of the cathedral's 25th anniversary.

The performance, which is open to the public, is sponsored by the Immaculate Conception School for Boys in Malolos, and the Immaculate Conception Parish through the Most. Rev. **Rolando J. Tria Tirona, O.C.D., P.D.**, Bishop of Malolos.

On Dec. 8, there will be a concelebrated Mass at 9 a.m., to be officiated by his Excellency, Most. **Rev. Antonio Franco, D.P.**, Apostolic Nuncio.

'Tiktipaklong'

THE MOBILE Theater Foundation (Manila) and Tanghalang Sta. Ana are staging **Rene Villanueva**'s "Tiktipaklong" at the Sta. Ana Arts Center at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Dec. 12 and 14. The children's musical is directed by **Lou Veloso**.

"Tiktipaklong" tells the story of a young grasshopper who is tasked by his mother to look for food for their family, and gets involved in a series of interesting and instructive adventures. Call 562-7094.

The musical had a number of performances last month, some of which were presented free of charge for students of public elementary schools in the Sixth District of Manila (Sta. Ana, Pandacan, Punta and Sta. Mesa).

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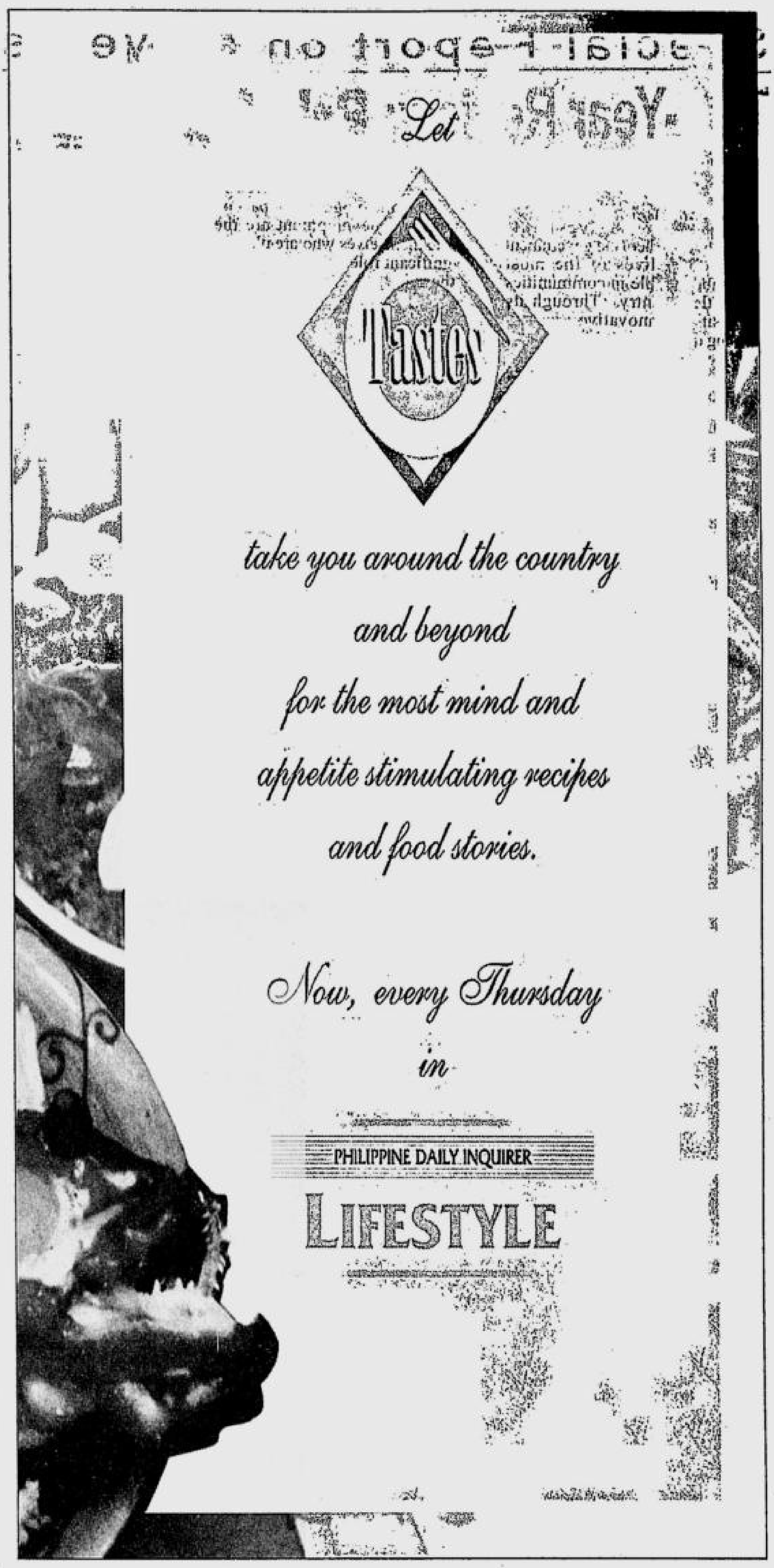
MTRCB P13
Regular showing starts Dec. 12 at the SM CINEMAS.



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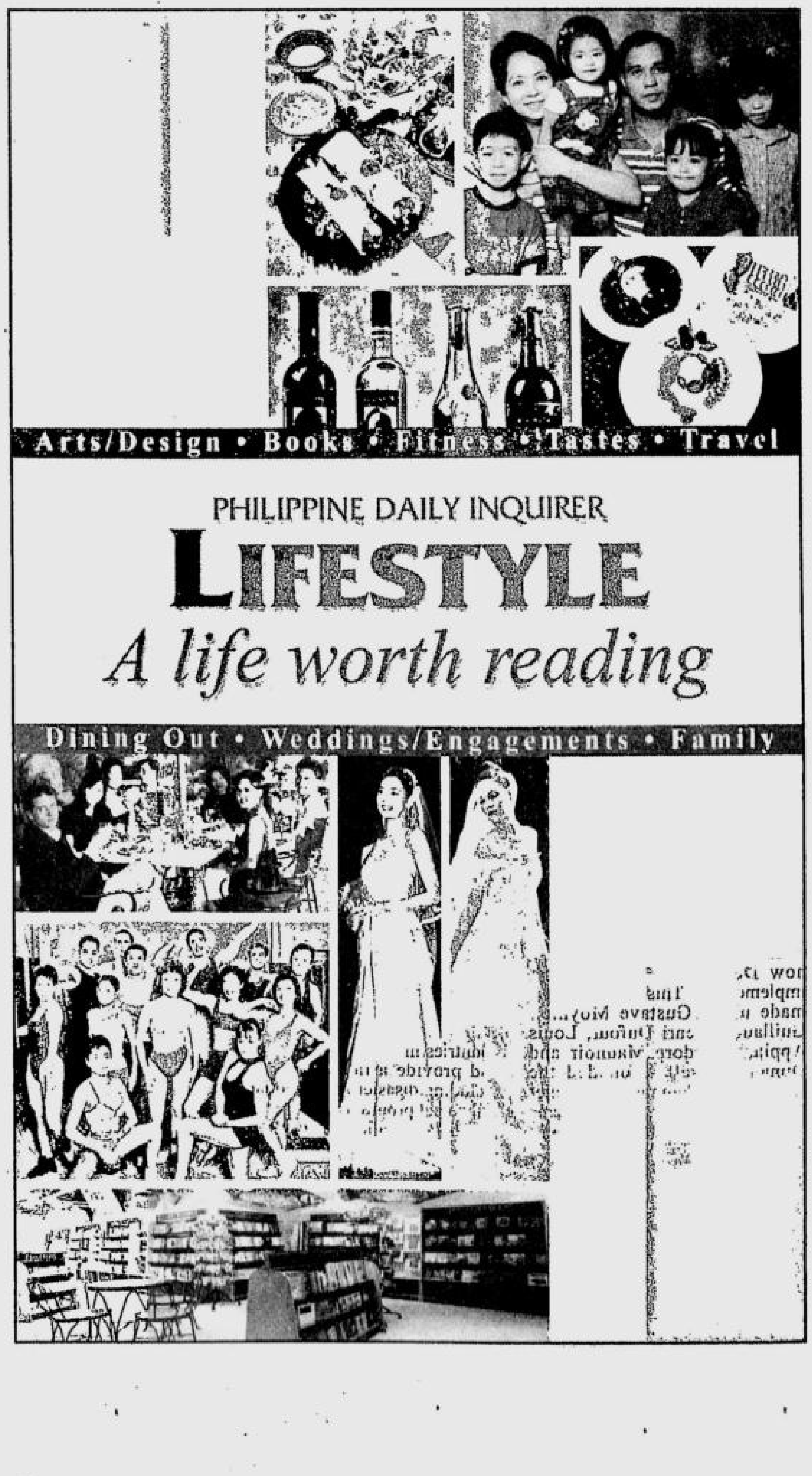

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Where are the more subversive British films?

By CONSTANTINO C. TEJERO

WE WEREN'T expecting anything close to the Cinema of Transgression, as we knew organizers of the annual British film festival in Manila have been staying on the safer side of valor year after year.

That is, they have consistently refused to show to the general audience the transgressive works of British filmmakers like Peter Greenaway, Derek Jarman, Ken Loach, John Boorman, Terry Gilliam, Stephen Frears, Nicolas Roeg, Shane Meadows, Ken Russell.

This year's festival held at the Shangri-La Plaza was no different. But even then, the entries were relatively innocuous compared to those of the previous years.

And there were serious glitches. Michael Winterbottom's "Wonderland" had been bumped off the lineup. Nigel Cole's "Saving Grace" couldn't be shown until the final day as it was reportedly held back by the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board.

Last year's British filmfest had more interesting features: Paul Morrison's "Solomon and Gaenor" (nominee for Oscar Best Foreign-Language Film), Alan Parker's "Angela's Ashes," Jasmin Dizdar's "Beautiful People" (1999 Cannes winner, like something from Continental Europe, the filmmaker being Bosnian), Mike Leigh's "Topsy-Turvy" (this should have won major awards at the Oscars), Damien O'Donnell's "East is East."

The festival was even more transgressive two years earlier, what with Leigh's "Secrets & Lies" and Danny Boyle's "Trainspotting." Which could only mean there was this year a sort of decline somewhere, either in the quality of recent British productions or in the taste of the programmers.

Fantastic premise

"Wild About Harry" (a.k.a., "Thanks for the Memories"), by Decian Lowney, is almost radical in its fantastic proposition in giving a man a second chance in life. A slob, drunkard and womanizer falls into a weeklong coma on the eve of his divorce, then wakes up as a partial amnesiac, having forgotten 25 years of his life.

KENNETH Branagh stars in "Love's Labour's Lost."

This is a wild situation that could have covered a lot of ground, but the filmmaker concentrates on the bittersweet romance. Brendan Gleeson and Amanda Donahoe are perfectly paired, though.

"Love's Labour's Lost," by Kenneth Branagh, is only japery in the style of a 1930s musical. The story of a disavowal of love and postponement of courtship is told mostly through songs of Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, Jerome Kern, Gershwin; dance routines from Gene Kelly, Astaire-Rogers, Esther Williams, Busby Berkeley; and grainy montage of newsreel footage.

The musical numbers are serviceable. Moments of transcendence come when the autumnal landscape and drab interiors are vivified by love through bold dashes of color in the costumes. The audience feels some euphoria once when, at the line "Heaven—I'm in heaven . . . ," the lovesick swains inexplicably float toward the blue of the ceiling.

This is another harmless popularization of Shakespeare, although only about a fourth of the original text has been used. At one hour and 30 minutes, it is surely one of the briefest film adaptations of Shakespeare, and certainly the tamest.

Eloquent moments

Even "Saving Grace," despite the fact that it was initially held hostage by the MTRCB presumably for its plot involving large-scale cultivation of marijuana, can hardly be called transgressive at all. In fact, it looks like a Victorian tea party set in The Garden of Earthly Delights, more cartoonish than sinful.

Brenda Blethyn, who played nervy, whining or raucous working-class women in "Secrets & Lies" and Mark Herman's "Little Voice," is here a proper member of the English upper crust, now quite restrained in her acting technique. She has eloquent moments, such as every time she checks her emotions or holds back her tears, or when she falls into hysterics of laughter and giggles the first time she puffs on a joint.

The film is transgressive only in its premise that one can pay off a £300,000 mortgage on one's estate by growing hemp in the hothouse. Or that one may serve to polite society soft narcotics as hot fresh tea in a kettle.

But the scenes come out as hilarious, not dangerous. At film's end, the viewer's spirit may soar, but the whole proceeding ultimately feels silly.

Of this year's entries, only Terence Gross' "Hotel Splendide" could be labeled mildly transgressive, for the weirdness of characters and story and the grossness of language and image. By its looks, it had the potential of becoming this year's "Trainspotting."

The film has a split personality, verging between black comedy and slapstick, at times edging toward horror (with appropriate musical score). It uses a glorious photography while the surroundings look unbelievably filthy.

Exquisite craft

The story tells of the attempts of a family to maintain a crumbling hotel and heath spa on an island off the British coast. The dilapidation of the old structure parallels the disintegration of the manager's mind and the physical decrepitude of the guests.

Toni Collete, who plays a cook serving up exuberant dishes to the recuperating guests, gives a quiet intensity and some dignity to her bleak role. In fact, all the characters behave like lower life forms, and the roles would have gone to the dogs if not for the exquisite craft of these British actors.

We thought only Filipino films were going to the dogs. But our hasty generalization was proven wrong by the French last July, and now the British. Is a decline of cinema happening all over the world then?

The old film maestros are mostly dead: Kurosawa, Ray, Buñuel, Welles, Hitchcock, Bresson, Fellini. Of the old masters, only Bergman, Antonioni, Wajda, Billy Wilder and Manoel de Oliveira are left, but they haven't been doing films for years. Even younger masters like Herzog, Coppola, Oshima and Godard we haven't seen lately.

We're sick and tired of goody-goody mediocrities in cinema. We want riskier fare like "Festen," with its outright disorder and rigorous filmic control.

We demand transgression—the subversion of values, technique, subject matter, characterization, plot, in other words, a total overhauling of the art and its philosophy. We demand new blood, new works, not to replace but to continue the radical tradition of the masters.

"Basta kami, pang-matagalan."
Tuwing
kailangan,
maaasahan.

BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

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November inflation hits 16-month low

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE INCREASE in consumer prices slowed to a 16-month low of 4.4 percent in November from a year earlier, giving monetary officials more room to perk up the economy.

The lower-than-expected inflation rate resulted from the combined impact of a stable peso, lower oil prices and weak consumer demand.

The figure was slightly lower than the 4.5 percent government forecast and compares favorably with the 5.4-percent inflation rate in the previous month.

For the 11 months to November, the consumer price index was up 6.3 percent year on year, well within the government's full year target of 6-7 percent.

The November inflation was the slowest year-on-year rise since July 2000 when inflation stood at 4.3 percent, the National Statistics Office said.

This gives the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas elbow room to discuss reductions in its overnight rates as well as in the reserve requirement on banks.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said its policy-making Monetary Board would consider trimming its key overnight rates and the reserve requirement of banks at its weekly meeting Thursday.

"Definitely it looks good. It was better than our expectations," Buenaventura said.

Lower rates and lower reserves would raise the money supply, theoretically stimulating demand.

"It bolsters our recommendation and gives us more ammunition," Buenaventura said. "I'm confident that we could hit the lower end of the government's average target range of 6 percent by year's end, contrary to what others were saying that it could hit 7 percent."

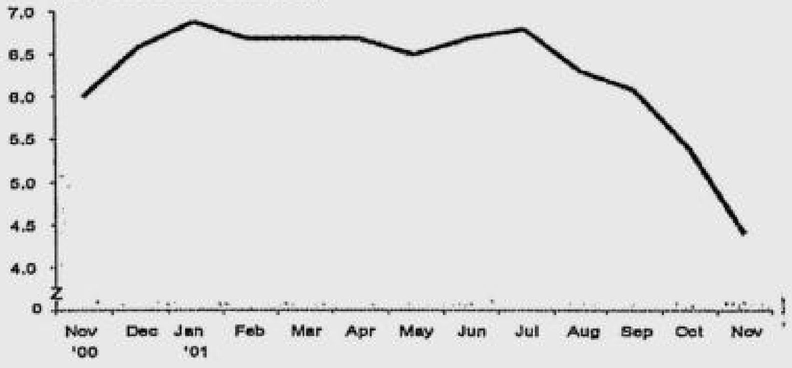
The NSO reported that the slowdown in last month's inflation rate was brought by the across-the-board decline in the index for all commodity groups.

The inflation rate for food, beverage and tobacco declined to 2.6 percent in November from 3.9 percent in October; clothing, to 3.4 percent from 3.5 percent; housing and repairs, to 6.8 percent from 6.9

NOVEMBER /B8

Inflation rates

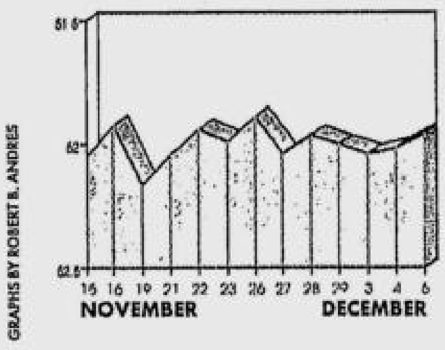
(Nov. 2000 to Nov. 2001)



INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



Peso-Dollar Rate

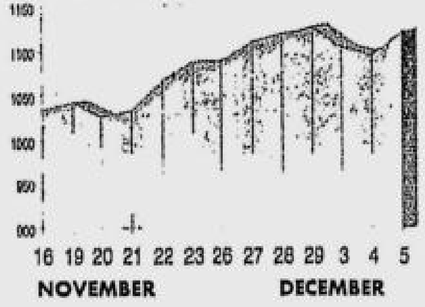
P 51.955 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Dec. 5, 2001

Y 124.12 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Dec. 5, 2001

GOLD:$275.50/276.00
per ounce Hong Kong,
Dec. 5, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares up 2.3%

SHARE prices rose 2.3 percent yesterday after the release of data showing lower than expected inflation for November, brokers said.

"In anticipation of the possible cut in interest rates and the reserve requirement by the central bank, we had a broad-based rally," said Teresa Lee Jahrling of Tower Securities.

The PSE composite index gained 25.42 points to 1,121.97.

Turnover rose to 1.7 billion shares worth P470 million compared to 1.05 billion shares worth P382 million traded on Tuesday.

Gilbert Agnes of IB Gimenez Securities said investors were taking the correction over the last two days as the cue to pick up bargains.

"It seems every dip is a buying opportunity. We have established a strong support at 1,100. When a recovery trend is established every dip is taken as an opportunity," he said. *AFP*

Cut in BSP rates, banks reserves seen

THE POLICY-SETTING Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas will approve today a cut in its overnight policy rates or the reserve requirement on banks—or both—following the drop in the inflation rate to a 16-month low.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura yesterday told reporters that the board would take up during its meeting today the possible cut in both monetary tools in order to provide the additional liquidity needed to support economic growth.

Buenaventura said the cut in the reserve requirement could be as much as 2 percentage points while he did not give a specific level for the overnight rates.

In a separate interview, Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas estimated that given the 4.4-percent inflation for November, the BSP has room to cut its overnight rates by another 25 to 50 basis points.

The BSP currently imposes a 20-percent reserve requirement on banks: 11-percent liquidity reserves or a bank's funds required to be placed in market-yielding government securities, and a 9-percent statutory reserve portion required to be placed in the BSP's vaults.

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Endangered fishy

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

JUST the other day, the Social Weather Station gave us another sign of the cuteness of this cute administration. Gloriaetta apparently got a high "satisfaction" rating of 53 percent.

Bear in mind that it's all perception, and some people can fashion public perception to their liking precisely by using cuteness and other spin tactics.

Apparently, according to the survey, many people—majority of us, in fact—think that Gloriaetta is "serious" in doing certain things.

If we only want to measure her "seriousness," we don't even need a survey. It's evident in her display of, uhm, "intensity" during televised media briefings.

Intensity, by the way, is how US President George W. Bush describes Gloriaetta's famous temper. Everybody knows she is intense. Intense always means serious.

Sorry, I didn't get just exactly how the SWS survey question went. Is she serious? Definitely, without batting an eyelash, with or without a survey, she is serious.

But is she doing a good job? Now that's an entirely different thing, and I don't know. Let's just say she is serious in trying to do her best to do a good job.

* * *

LIKE it or not, Gloriaetta is still popular. The survey gives us such an indication. She can win in any election right now. Or let's just say she stands a good chance of winning.

But can she lead? In business, they are saying that popularity does not necessarily mean an ability to lead. It only means Gloriaetta shields herself from controversies.

Sure, so far, Gloriaetta herself has not figured in any serious case of graft and corruption. It's just that, in business, they think she tolerates the practice among her boys.

Thus, the business community is already calling for a Cabinet revamp. Gloriaetta may be listening seriously. She recently went on radio to say she was thinking about it.

Among the endangered species in the Cabinet, of course, is the business sector's favorite transporation secretary, Pantaleon Alvarez, a.k.a. Bebot.

Even in the Palace, they don't think Bebot can even make it through the Commission on Appointments unless Gloriaetta engages in horse trading for him.

My info is that she is not ready to do so. That's why, if you notice, Bebot is trying desperately to save himself. His boys are attacking Lucio Tan.

* * *

I AM serious. To save himself, he thinks he has to attack somebody else. This, in spin parlance, is called muddling. Down here, we know it simply as something fishy.

His boys, it turns out, are accusing Lucio Tan of doing a demolition job on Mr. Endangered Fishy himself. So they recommend that he get back at Lucio Tan.

So the DOTC talks about "blackmail," as it is done by PAL, because the flag carrier purportedly wants to continue using the Naia Terminal 2 for free.

It's of course a big lie. I know it's a lie because, once upon a time, somebody in the Freedom To Fly Coalition peddled it to me.

The "coalition," whatever that means, at that time was fighting Lucio Tan over the issue on the Philippines' air agreement with Taiwan. It sided with . . . well, the enemy.

Anyway, even then, I reported that PAL never used Terminal 2 for free. It paid the government about P10 million a month. It was more than what others were willing to pay.

Other airlines, in fact, did not want to use Terminal 2. Right, no takers. Even the Naia general manager, Edgar Manda, testified to that effect. It was just too expensive.

* * *

SO what kind of a country will we look to others, particularly investors and tourists, if we have a brand-new airport terminal and nobody is using it?

That's easy. We will look stupid. Not only that, it would have told the world a lot about our government, such as it has never heard of planning.

The truth is that no matter what Bebot and his boys say, Terminal 2 is open to any other local airline. It's just that nobody wants to moor there.

Cebu Pacific, for instance, does not have much use for Terminal 2 because of its DC-9 aircraft, which do not fit the terminal's design.

As for Air Philippines, which is also owned by Lucio Tan, supposedly, moving to Terminal 2 will cost it an arm and a leg, plus a lot of money.

But all of a sudden, Lucio Tan and PAL are the issue with the DOTC. The boys of Bebot are saying Lucio Tan has muscled his way into the exclusive use of Terminal 2.

Is that so? Then all of those guys at the DOTC are useless cowards who have small brains. Why don't they order PAL to move out then? The airport is under the DOTC, duh!

* * *

IN case you didn't notice, they also put out an ad brazenly showing Bebot as our protector against the tentacles of bad guys like Lucio Tan and his allies in Maso. Yuck!

Maso, you see, is the association of operators at the airport. Bebot apparently thinks that Maso is trying to destroy him. His PR guys told me so.

Already, I got calls and invites from four PR guys. FOUR! They claimed to represent Bebot. They all said Maso was behind the bad publicity against Bebot.

It was as if it was something personal against Bebot. They never said that the bad publicity only had something to do with the Naia Terminal 3 project of Piatco.

Piatco is building the terminal under a contract with the DOTC. Bebot's wife, it turned out, had a company that, in turn, had a contract with Piatco. Millions worth!

* * *

THUS, Maso filed a P76-million plunder case against Bebot. His boys at the DOTC suspected that Lucio Tan was the main man behind Maso. To them, it's enemy sighted.

In no time, stories appeared about Lucio Tan's famous tax evasion cases even if the poor guy already answered everything in court and was even cleared of them.

My info is that soon, leading figures in Maso will be the targets. I can't wait to read bad stories about them. This is getting to be more exciting than the Weakest Link.

It seems anybody who opposes Piatco's Naia Terminal 3 will now be a target for Bebot's boys. Let loose the Bebot dogs of wart.

Uh-oh, so I should watch out for those warts then? It so happens I really believe the DOTC contract with Piatco stinks.

Meralco unlikely to increase rates by ₱0.30 by year's end

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE HEAD of the Energy Regulatory Commission said yesterday that it was unlikely that power distribution giant Manila Electric Co. would get clearance to raise its rates before the end of the year.

ERC Chair Fe Barin said in an interview the commission was busy with "more important things."

"I'm not saying that the petition is the least important (of our concerns, but) I cannot say if it would be approved in the remaining days of the year," Barin told reporters.

She said there were only 15 working days left before the end of the year, and that the matter should not be rushed.

"This is a very sensitive issue," Barin stressed.

Meralco's petition, which has been pending since April last year, has met strong opposition from the Office of the Solicitor General and the National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms.

The OSG is questioning Meralco's computation of its return-on-rate-base, a measure of its profitability.

A company official said last month that Meralco would likely be allowed to raise its rates by 30 centavos per kilowatt-hour, although on a staggered basis.

The source, who asked not to be named, said it was likely that the ERC would let Meralco's rates rise gradually to ease the burden on end-consumers.

"If the ERC opted for (a six-month implementation), Meralco would be raising its rates by 5 centavos per kwh per month (over that period)," he said.

He said, however, that the Lopez-controlled firm preferred to implement a one-time rate adjustment.

"That would be more acceptable since the impact on consumers would also be one time (only)," he said.

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TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2001:
PUBLIC BRIEFING ON THE PHILIPPINES' TRANSPARENCY AND CORRUPTION RANKING
BY
TUNKU ABDUL AZIZ
VICE CHAIRMAN, TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL

"The CPI is based on the understanding that a change in the perceived level of corruption can be measured only by a consistent shift in behaviour over a number of years. As a result, it may not give credit to new government leaders who are making determined efforts to counter years of rampant corruption in their countries. For example, in recent times we have seen new leaders take the helm in Nigeria, Mexico and the Philippines intent upon far-reaching anti-corruption programmes."

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The briefing will look at what the CPI should be telling us about corruption and governance in the country. It will also be a venue for discussing the role of scorecards and indices to help in monitoring governance or the lack thereof.

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DISCLOSURES

ELECTED chair and chief executive of **Central Azucarera de la Carlota** was Pedro Roxas, while Miguel Gaspar was elected president and chief operating officer.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Philippine Telegraph & Telephone Corp.** were Jose Luis Santiago, Eleanor Santiago, Ricardo Ysmael, Epitacio Marquez, Rolando de la Cuesta, Roderick Salazar III and Lorna Pangilinan.

* * *

ORIENTAL Petroleum and Minerals Corp. has denied having any information that may explain the 38.89-percent increase in its share price.

* * *

SAN Miguel Corp. confirmed it was interested in acquiring Swift Foods Corp.

* * *

DIGITAL Telecommunications Philippines Inc. has confirmed creating a subsidiary, **Digitel Mobile Philippines Inc.**, to separate its mobile telecommunications business from its wire-line service.

* * *

PHILIPPINE AXA confirmed it was only interested in acquiring the client base of **All Asia Life Insurance Corp.**

* * *

METROPOLITAN Bank and Trust Co. said it was considering an operations merger with **Global Bank.** *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Wednesday, December 5, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	51	53	51	53	906,600
China Banking Corp.	520	520	520	520	160
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	22.75	24	22.5	23.5	278,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	176	180	176	179	39,540
Philippine National Bank	48	49	48	49	63,300
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	20	20	20	20	400
Union Bank of the Phil.	14.25	14.75	14.25	14.75	184,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	0.98	0.99	0.98	0.99	160,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	239	239	239	239	500
Manulife Financial Corp.	1370	1380	1370	1380	1,620
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1150	1185	1150	1180	24,800
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24	24.75	24	24.75	22,800
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.41	0.43	0.41	0.43	3,440,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	575	590	575	590	4,260
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	600,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.49	150,000
Piltel	0.42	0.42	0.37	0.37	50,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	405	407.5	405	407.5	112,010
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.02	0.021	0.02	0.021	53,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	23.5	24	23.5	23.75	57,400
Manila Electric Co. B	29	30.5	29	29	1,886,500
Petron Corp.	1.46	1.56	1.46	1.52	8,894,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	0.98	1.14	0.98	1.12	480,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.74	2	1.74	1.98	10,660,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Concrete Aggregates A	10	10	10	10	15,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.31	0.33	0.31	0.33	60,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	958,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12	12.25	12	12.25	1,186,700
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	24.5	24.75	24	24	125,500
RFM Corp.	2.26	2.36	2.26	2.32	2,067,000
San Miguel Corp. A	41	41.5	41	41.5	56,800
San Miguel Corp. B	51	51	50.5	50.5	138,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.9	4.95	4.85	4.9	2,967,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	64,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.76	0.78	0.76	0.78	710,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	40,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.007	0.007	385,000,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.73	0.79	0.73	0.77	8,130,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	90,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.2	0.205	0.17	0.17	5,740,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.15	0.18	0.15	0.18	920,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.065	0.0675	0.0625	0.0625	9,900,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.215	1,250,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	500,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	100,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	25.5	26.5	25.5	26.5	35,400
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.11	0.12	0.11	0.12	280,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.135	700,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.15	0.17	0.15	0.17	16,340,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	120,000
Ionics Inc.	6.4	7.1	6.4	7.1	111,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	70,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2	330,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.65	0.68	0.65	0.68	1,440,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.37	0.39	0.37	0.39	10,600,000
Music Corp.	0.45	0.46	0.4	0.45	33,420,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	100,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	100,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	10,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.195	0.19	0.19	2,120,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.3	0.32	0.29	0.32	2,210,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	20,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.81	0.81	0.78	0.79	450,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	11,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	100,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	24.5	25	24.5	25	2,285,100
DMCI Holdings Inc.- Pref.	535	535	535	535	400
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.9	1.94	1.8	1.9	290,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	555	575	555	565	1,850
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0014	0.0016	0.0014	0.0016	128,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	8,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	6,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	2,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	202,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.5	8.7	8.5	8.5	40,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.85	4.9	4.85	4.9	4,138,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	100,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	60,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.205	0.215	0.205	0.215	3,530,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.35	0.4	0.35	0.4	13,950,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.24	2,880,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.66	1.72	1.64	1.7	5,674,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	32,800,000
City & Land Developers	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	23,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1,240,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	200,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.085	0.095	0.085	0.09	1,700,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.4	6.1	6.3	4,984,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	1,500,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	2.4	3	2.4	3	35,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	1,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0032	0.0034	0.0032	0.0034	5,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0032	0.0032	20,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	4,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	80,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	8,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0065	0.007	0.006	0.006	451,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0065	0.007	0.006	0.006	218,000,000
Pacifica	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.016	21,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.2	400,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,659,420	98,985,480.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	901,676,720	294,388,240.00
PRO	72,779,000	71,691,270.00
Mining	30,115,000	224,200.00
OIL	698,400,000	4,902,000.00
GRAND TOTALS :	1,704,630,140	470,191,190.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	450.74	UP 14.54
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,557.95	UP 23.47
PRO	502.66	UP 16.42
Mining	1,031.59	UP 26.52
OIL	1.95	UP 0.19
All Shares Index	709.88	UP 14.36
Composite	1,121.97	UP 25.42

NO. OF ADVANCES: 65; NO. OF DECLINES: 10; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 29; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 104; NO. OF TRADES: 3,339

CURRENCIES

Dec. 05, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.122586	1.000000	52.0350
Japan	Yen	0.009042	0.008055	0.4191
United Kingdom	Pound	1.596767	1.422400	74.0146
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.144106	0.128370	6.6797
Switzerland	Franc	0.679450	0.605254	31.4944
Canada	Dollar	0.714568	0.636537	33.1222
Singapore	Dollar	0.611430	0.544662	28.3415
Australia	Dollar	0.578354	0.515198	26.8083
Bahrain	Dinar	2.977841	2.652661	138.0312
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.299357	0.266667	13.8760
Brunei	Dollar	0.609770	0.543183	28.2645
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000108	0.000096	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.025478	0.022696	1.1810
UAE	Dirham	0.305715	0.272331	14.1707
Korea	Won	0.000888	0.000791	0.0412
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.890800	46.3528
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.455459	23.6998
France	Franc	0.152450	0.135802	7.0665
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.404227	21.0340
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064737	3.3686
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022082	1.1490
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000460	0.0239
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.149822	7.7960
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004443	0.2312
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005354	0.2786
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022082	1.1490
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.131083	58.8559

Ayala still keen on buying Boni stake

By Doris C. Dumlao

PREMIER property developer Ayala Land Inc. yesterday said it was still pursuing the acquisition of a controlling stake in Bonifacio Land Co. but has yet to strike an acceptable deal with seller Metro Pacific Corp.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, ALI vice president and comptroller Jaime Ysmael said the company received a counter-proposal from MPC on Nov. 28 after its submission of a binding offer for the stake.

"However, we advised MPC that since the range of values MPC had proposed for the acquisition of its investment in BLC exceeded the range of values ALI had determined such investment to be worth and was prepared to pay, ALI was unable to consider MPC's counter-proposal as a basis for ALI's acquisition of MPC's investment in BLC," Ysmael said.

The Inquirer earlier reported that MPC and ALI were now deadlocked over the negotiations on BLC as the terms of offer from MPC were not acceptable to ALI.

"Nevertheless, ALI remains interested in acquiring MPC's investment in BLC and is willing to continue discussions with MPC on the premise that such discussions will be conducted within the context and range of values specified in ALI's offer," Ysmael said.

As part of the consideration it was willing to pay for the acquisition of all the direct and indirect interests of MPC and First Pacific in BLC, ALI has offered to transfer its 15-percent stake in Metro Rail Transit Corp.

MPC controls 69.6 percent of BLC which, in turn, has a 55-percent stake in Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., the joint venture company formed with state-controlled Bases Conversion Development Authority to develop the 150-hectare Fort Bonifacio Global City.

In a press briefing last week, MPC chair and acting CEO Manuel Pangilinan had said the company would continue its debt reduction program with or without a deal on BLC.

ALI was MPC's stiffest rival when the BCDA bid out the development rights to the Fort Bonifacio property in 1995. If consummated, a deal with MPC would give the Ayala group a second chance to take over the premier property after losing out to the MPC-led consortium in 1995.

ING Barings, which was tapped by MPC as its financial adviser to evaluate its options on Fort Bonifacio, is likewise talking to other interested parties and has welcomed any creative offer.

MPC's parent company, Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd., is also open to a management buyout of MPC being structured by MPC president Ricardo Pascua, who has now gone on leave to disinterest himself from the ongoing bidding process for the company's stake in the Fort Bonifacio Global City.

The Gokongwei family's Robinsons Land Corp. also earlier disclosed that it had submitted a bid on the BLC stake but has not announced any update since then.

PLDT seen needing 2 years to ease debt problem

By Abigail L. Ho

DOMINANT carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. said it would take a year or two for it to address its two main concerns before it embarks on new undertakings.

PLDT vice president for media and corporate communications Menardo Jimenez Jr. told reporters yesterday that the telecommunications firm had only two main priorities: strengthening its core business and addressing its debt issues.

"Certain portions of it (the main concerns) will be addressed within that timeframe," he said.

He added that, during this period, PLDT would just try "to fix everything" and not stray to other matters beyond their main concerns.

Jimenez said PLDT had to realign its priorities to focus more on its core businesses—fixed line, wireless and Internet—from its earlier plan of acquiring other businesses that would be in line with PLDT president and chief executive Manuel Pangilinan's convergence strategy.

Jimenez disclosed, however, that PLDT had not completely closed its doors on acquiring a stake in second largest broadcasting company GMA Network Inc.

"As soon as the priority is finished, PLDT may be able to go back to its discussions with GMA," he said.

Pangilinan earlier said PLDT's acquisition of a stake in GMA would be shelved due to the more pressing debt issues that the PLDT group had to address at the moment.

"I believe that the underlying performance of the group as a whole, and even individually as business sectors, is growing in its own right, in different phases. But we have to address the debt issues first before we go to further investments," he said.

He added that PLDT's shareholders, its fund managers, analysts and the investment community in general, had advised the telecom giant to defer the buyout and just "focus on the issues ahead of us, specifically the debt issues that confront PLDT."

Also, he said one of its liability management initiatives was to have no new acquisitions in the near future.

Pangilinan admitted, however, that not being able to consummate the GMA sale could set its convergence strategy a few steps back.

"It will set it back a bit, particularly on the video side of that convergence strategy. I believe that the other elements of that strategy have worked and are still working. You see that happen with respect to the marriage of the fixed line businesses, (PLDT's Internet arm) ePLDT and cellular," he said.

The PLDT group has more than $1.3 billion in debts that would be maturing by 2004. It was supposed to buy a 66.67-percent stake in the country's second largest network, but this was later reduced to only 51 percent.

The 51-percent figure was then trimmed down to only 20 percent, which could eventually be increased to a controlling stake at a later date, before the deal was shelved altogether.

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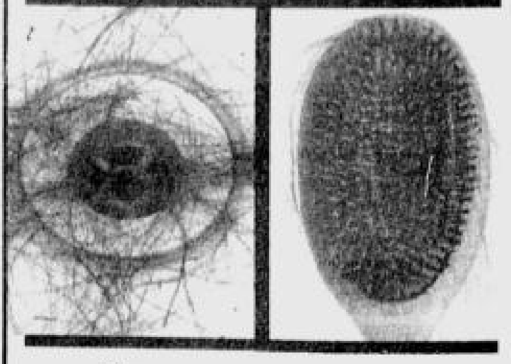
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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that an Extrajudicial Settlement of the Estate of Amando Tang with Deed of Absolute Sale has been executed by his heirs per Doc. No. 204; Page No. 42; Book No. 31;Series of 2001 before Notary Public Ezra M. Leano of the city of Manila (PDI -November 22, 29 & December 6, 2001)

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on **19 December 2001** at 2:00 p.m. at the Auditorium of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave. corner Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION		MINIMUM BID
REAL ESTATE				
BATAAN				
CRA-12	Roman Superhighway, Boundary of Hermosa and Orani	6,807 m² adjoining residential lots (TCT Nos. T-208130 and T-208131) with buildings and improvements.	P	6,964,800.00
BATANGAS				
LJG-124	Bo. Soro Soro, Carzada, Batangas City	1,274 m² industrial lot (TCT No. T-46824) with buildings, improvements, and various machinery & equipment for industrial clay processing	P	2,683,700.00
LDA-144	So. Pulo, Brgy. San Carlos, Rosario	8,599 m² (orchard) agricultural lot (TCT No. T-112360)	P	859,900.00
BULACAN				
LDA-101	Poblacion, Bustos	1,015.50 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-132040) with buildings and improvements	P	2,317,700.00
LAGUNA				
VPI-96	Poblacion, Lumban	97 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-200189) with 4-storey office/factory building and improvements	P	2,006,000.00
CHATTELS (Sale on per unit and "as-is, where-is" basis)				
MBL-165	Back of Manila Film Center, CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	One (1) non-propelled deck-loading barge, all steel welded construction (partly submerged) with the following principal dimensions: Length Overall (93.27M); Breadth (21.34M); Depth (4.88M); Gross tonnage (3,097 tons).	P	13,254,000.00
VJC-79 a	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Q.C.	One (1) unit Boltformer Machine, Taiwan-made, Model CD-50	P	2,402,800.00
VJC-79 b	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Q.C.	Twenty five (25) units various steel manufacturing machinery & equipment	P P	3,300.00 to 763,700.00/unit
LRD-140 a-l	Pinatubo Bricks Mfg. Compound, Brgy. Estrada, Capas, Tarlac	Eleven (11) units various brick making machinery & equipment (in dismantled condition)	P P	9,900.00 to 181,300.00/unit

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers:
892-3836 or 818-9511 loc. 2128 for Code starting with L;
893-7172 or 818-9511 loc. 2144 for Code starting with V.
815-1450 or 818-9511 loc. 2139 for Code starting with M; and
920-4794 and 920-4781 for Code starting with C;

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(PDI - Dec. 6 & 7, 2001)

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Full Time: 9am-5pm/Part Time: 3 1/2 Hars. Mga interesado ay pwedeng lumawag sa mga sumusunod na numero: 892-3202; 892-3603 hanggang 892-3031. Address: Unit 2411 Herrera Tower, Herrera Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the Stock Certificates No.19545 (for 211shares) & No.26113 (for 217 shares) of Banco Filipino Savings & Mortgage Bank, issued to Maria Celia F. de los Reyes, were stolen /lost and are now beyond recovery

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to unavoidable circumstances beyond the control of BIRCI, the scheduled raffle draw of **"Kotseng Pamasko, Grand Raffle 2001"** on **December 7, 2001** has been moved to **March 15, 2002** at 5:30 PM at the Patio, AFPCOC, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. For further clarification call: **912-0498**.

(PDI - Dec. 5 & 6, 2001)

PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City Tel. no.: 928-4501 to 09
Cable Address "Philcoa" P.O. Box 3386, Manila

INVITATION TO BID

The PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY (PCA) invites licensed Security Agencies to participate in the bidding to provide security services for the following offices:

1) Region IV-A Office, Lucena City - 6 Guards
2) Albay Research Center and Region V Office - 12 Guards
3) Central Office, Diliman, Quezon City - 20 Guards
4) Zamboanga Research Center Zamboanga City - 22 Guards
5) CETC/DRC/Region - 24 Guards
6) Coconut Seed Production Center Aroman, Carmen, North Cotabato - 34 Guards

A complete set of Bid/Tender Documents can be secured from the Office of the Deputy Administrator for Corporate Services Branch, 7th Floor, PCA R & D Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City, upon the payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00).

Bids shall be opened at 2:00 p.m. on **19 December 2001** at the 7th floor, Viewing Room, Office of the Administrator, PCA R & D Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City. A Pre-bidding Conference shall be held at the same venue on **December 17, 2001** at 10:00 A.M.

PCA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality in the bids received or accept such bids as may be deemed most advantageous to the PCA.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. DANIEL M. CLETO**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Dec. 1, 6 & 11, 2001)

PHILIPPINE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS NAVAL LOGISTICS CENTER
Fort San Felipe, Cavite City
Tel. # (046) 431-0204/524-2061 LOCAL 6643/6679

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Naval Logistics Center Bids and Awards Committee (NLC BAC) is inviting all interested suppliers, dealers, manufacturers and/or authorized distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of the following parts and accessories of Marine Scout Sniper Rifle:

34	Unit	Barrel Cal. 5.56mm; stainless steel (DPMS) BL-24 SST
7	Unit	Barrel Cal. 5.56mm; stainless steel (DPMS) DLH-20 SST
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40	Unit	JP Match Trigger (DPMS)
40	Unit	Tri-mount Rail (DPMS)
40	Unit	Harris Bipod
40	Unit	Accu Wedge
40	Unit	Spotting Scope
40	Unit	Rifle Scope
40	Se	Cleaning Kits
40	Ea	(Rifle) Scope Cover
40	Ea	(Rifle) Transport Case
40	Bt	Bore Cleaning Solvent 16 Oz/bt
40	Bt	Cleaner Lubricant Preservative 500ml/bt
10	Bg	Cleaning Patches 10,000 patches/bg

Specifications and terms of conditions will be discussed during the pre-bid conference on **14 December 2001** (Friday) 2:00 o'clock P.M. at the Conference Room, HNLC, Fort San Felipe, Cavite City. Deadline for the submission of bid proposals and opening of bids will be on **20 December 2001** at 2:00 P.M. at the Conference Room, HNLC, Fort San Felipe, Cavite City. Interested bidders are required to submit the following documents on or before **14 December 2001** at the Office of Material Acquisition Division, HNLC, Fort San Felipe, Cavite City.

1. DTI/SEC Registration
2. Latest Business Permits and License
3. Articles of Incorporation/Partnership or Proprietorship
4. Company Profile to include Audited Financial Statement for the last 2 years
5. VAT Registration Certificate/BIR Tax Clearance Certificate
6. List of clients with contact person, Telephone Nos. & address.

The NLC Bids & Awards Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids waive any formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal is the most advantageous to the government as evaluated by this committee.

(Sgd.) **EUFRACIO G. ARANCON, JR.**
CDR PN (GSC)
Chairman, NLC Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI--Dec. 6 & 12, 2001)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites all registered Health Maintenance Organizations to participate in the rebidding for the Executive Health Care Program for 138 Executives for Year 2002. The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

December 7 & 10, 2001	-	Issuance of List of Pre-qualification Requirements
December 11, 2001	-	Deadline of submission of pre-qualification documents
December 13, 2001	-	Issuance of bid documents
December 14, 2001 (11:00 AM)	-	Pre-bidding conference
December 18, 2001 (9:15 - 10:00 AM)	-	Submission of bid proposals
(10:15 AM)		Opening of bid proposals

Those who were previously pre-qualified during the bidding held last **November 6, 2001** are automatically qualified to participate in the rebidding. Pre-qualification forms and requirements can be secured from and submitted to PBAC Secretariat, ODAFA, 7th Floor, Matimyas Building, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City. Bidding documents may likewise be secured from PBAC Secretariat and the same shall be issued to pre-qualified bidders upon payment of P2,000.00 non-refundable fee.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY/INFORMALITY OF THE BIDS RECEIVED AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY.

(Sgd.) **MICHAEL ANGELO G. PADERANGA**
Deputy Administrator and Chairman, PBAC

(PDI--Dec. 6 & 7, 2001)

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JUDGE EFICIO B. ACOSTA

April 17, 1919 — December 4, 2001

of Abra and Nueva Vizcaya
Former Judge, CFI of Laoag, Ilocos Norte and Pasig, Rizal
Chairman-General Manager, Philippine Tobacco Administration (1966-1971)
Provincial Board Member, Nueva Vizcaya
District Governor, Lion's Club District 301-C
President, Nueva Vizcaya Lawyer's League
Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya
1st Lt. Infantry AFP, World War II Veteran

His beloved wife **Porfiria Joven Paredes**; children **Nick** and **Alma**, **Rudy** and **Penny**, **Tessie**, **Vicky** and **Rey**, **Ely** and **Nonoy**, **Cathy** and **Bertie**, **Cristy** and **Mehran**, **Bobby**, **Louie**, **Betty** and **Mike**; his grandchildren **April** and **Keith**, **Franchette**, **Brian**, **Nikko**, **Jing-jing** and **Jeanette**, **Karla**, **Jessica**, **Nicey**, **Erika**, **Hazel**, **Valyn**, **Stephie**, **Coco**, **Diana**, **Lissy**, **Andrew**, **Katrina**, **Tricia**, **Justin**, **Dierdra**, **Jon**, **Nakisa**, **Dylan**, **Arthur**, **Paolo**, **Noelle** and **Sophia**; great granddaughter **Alexandra**; brothers **Crispin**, **George** and sister **Natividad** request the reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Felicidad Suite, Arlington Funeral Parlor, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Interment will be on December 8, 2001 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Himlayang Filipino, Quezon City.

Luisa Noche Vda. De Mijares

Died in the peace of the Lord on December 04, 2001.

Her bereaved children **PABLO (BOY)** and **LITA**, **LULU**, **RONNIE** and **ANA**, **AJI** and **JOHN**; grandchildren **EDWIN** and **IANNE**, **KAYE**, **NIÑO**, **ROLLY** and **MARIEANNE**, **MIKHY** and **JENI**; great grandchildren **GERRARD**, **DIANNE** and **KAT-KAT** request the pious readers to pray for the repose of her soul.

The body lies in state at the Holy Trinity Chapel at Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Saturday, December 08, 2001 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

Eighteenth Death Anniversary of

JUDGE FELIPE TICZON ELEOSIDA

of San Pablo City and Kidapawan City

Masses will be offered at the following Churches:

Our Lady of Mediatrix *Kidapawan City*	5:45 AM
Santuario de San Jose *Greenhills, Mandaluyong*	6:00 AM
Santa Isabella De Rosis *Italy*	6:00 AM
St. Anne Parish *Taguig City*	6:00 AM
De la Strada Parish *Loyola Heights, Quezon City*	6:00 AM

REGINO I. CRUZ

Passed away in the Grace of Our Lord on December 5, 2001 at the age of 76.

His loving wife **Caridad**; children **Lorelei & Jojo Itchon**, **Eldon & Ballsy**, **Alec & Guia**, **Jiselo & Romina**, **Nonilo & Malu**; grandchildren **Brian**, **Edric & Chiara Itchon**; **Jiggy & Jonty**; **Allan**, **Alden**, **Andro & Adriel**; **Samara & Maxine**; **Janelle**; brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His wake is at the St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Church in Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment will be announced later.

"I am the resurrection and the life, whoever believes in Me, though he dies, shall live."
John 11:25

In Loving Memory of

Antonio C. Delgado

Masses will be offered tomorrow, Friday on the 9th Anniversary of his death December 7, 2001

Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene *Quiapo, Manila*	6:00 a.m.
National Shrine of the Sacred Heart *Dao Street, San Antonio Village, Makati City*	6:30 a.m.
Malolos Cathedral, *Bulacan*	7:00 a.m.
Santuario de San Antonio *McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City*	7:30 a.m. 12:00 noon
Makati Medical Center Chapel *Dela Rosa Street Legaspi Village, Makati City*	12:00 noon 4:00 p.m.
Minor Basilica San Lorenzo Ruiz, *Binondo, Manila*	12:15 noon
San Lorenzo Ruiz Chapel *Holiday Inn-Manila Pavilion, Ermita, Manila*	12:15 p.m.
St. Jerome Church/Sta. Susana Parish *Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa*	12:15 p.m.
Sto. Niño de Paz Chapel, *Greenbelt Park, Makati City*	5:45 p.m.
Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace (EDSA Shrine) *Ortigas, EDSA, Quezon City*	6:00 p.m.
St. John Bosco Parish, *Arnaiz Street, Makati City*	6:00 p.m.
St. James the Great *Cuenca, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City*	6:30 p.m.

BI KIAT YU SY

Died peacefully on December 04, 2001 at the age of 87.

She is survived by her daughters, son, daughter and sons-in-law, grandchildren, great grandchildren, other relatives and friends.

Her remains lie in state at the Premier Chapel, Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Parañaque City.

Interment service will be on Saturday, December 8th, 8:00 a.m. at the Premier Chapel followed by burial at Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matt. 11:28

"From darkness let the light shine!"
Genesis 1:3

AMANCIA SANTOS ROQUE

Passed away at the age of 90 on December 3, 2001

Her loving children, grandchildren and great grandchildren request everyone to pray for the eternal repose of her soul: **Claring** (†) and **Itoy** (†) **Dionisio**, **Mario** and **Guelang Roque**, **Letty** and **Mario Victorino**, **Elvie** and **Jogan** (†) **Leones**, **Crising** and **Nestor Patiño**, **Reto** and **Ely Roque**, **Rene** and **Lucy Roque**, **Ding** and **Baby Roque**, **Glecy** and **Samy Bagasin**.

Her body lies in state at the Roque residence at Galvez St., Barangay Wawa, Balagtas, Bulacan. Interment will be on December 8, 2001 after the 2 p.m. Mass to be celebrated at Balagtas Church.

"We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God."
2 Cor. 4:14

FELY CARINA LETE RAMOS

November 7, 1940 — December 4, 2001
Died at the age of 61.

Her husband **Franklin**; only daughter **Leonila Grace**;
brothers **Alfredo Jr.**; **Mario** and **Roland** ;
and granddaughters **Anna Katrina** and **Batchie**.
Her body lies in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.
Funeral Mass shall be on December 8, 2001 at 10:00 a.m.,
followed by Cremation Services at Loyola Memorial Chapels Crematorium after the Mass.

Republic of the Philippines

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

Manila

RULES AND REGULATIONS ON THE REGISTRATION OF MEMBERS OF THE KATIPUNAN NG KABATAAN IN CONNECTION WITH THE MAY 6, 2002 ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN.
x--------------x

BENIPAYO, Alfredo L.,	*Chairman*
TANCANGCO, Luzviminda G.,	*Commissioner*
JAVIER, Rufino S. B.,	*Commissioner*
LANTION, Ralph C.,	*Commissioner*
SADAIN, Mehol K.,	*Commissioner*
BORRA, Resurreccion Z.,	*Commissioner*
TUASON, Florentino A. Jr.,	*Commissioner*

PROMULGATED: 04 December 2001

RESOLUTION NO. 4713

WHEREAS, Article 202, Rule XXVII of the Rules and Regulations Implementing the Local Government Code of 1991 provides for an assembly of youth in every barangay to be known as Katipunan ng Kabataan whose primary objective is to enhance the social, political, economic, cultural, intellectual, moral, spiritual, and physical development of the youth of the country;

WHEREAS, Article 203 of the same Rule provides that the Katipunan ng Kabataan of each barangay shall elect its Sangguniang Kabataan composed of a chairman and seven members;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commission on Elections, by virtue of the powers vested in it by the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines, Republic Acts No. 7160, 7808, the Omnibus Election Code and other election laws, RESOLVED to promulgate, as it hereby promulgates, the following rules and regulations to govern the conduct of registration of members of the Katipunan ng Kabataan for purposes of the May 06, 2002 election of members of the Sangguniang Kabataan:

Section 1. *Registration policy.* - Applicants for registration as members of the *Katipunan ng Kabataan* shall be registered as follows:

a) Those who are fifteen (15) but below eighteen (18) years of age shall register in accordance with this Resolution;
b) Those who are eighteen (18) but not more than twenty one (21) years of age who are not yet registered as voters for regular elections shall register under the system of continuing registration;
c) Those who are eighteen (18) but not more than twenty one (21) years of age who are registered voters under the system of continuing registration need not register as they are automatically considered as registered members of the *Katipunan ng Kabataan.*

Sec. 2. *Date, time and place of filing and hearing of applications for registration* – The applications for registration as members of the *Katipunan ng Kabataan* shall be filed and heard during regular office hours at the Office of the Election Officer of the city/municipality where the applicant resides, in accordance with the following schedule:

PERIOD TO FILE APPLICATIONS	LAST DAY TO POST NOTICE OF HEARING OF APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION	LAST DAY TO FILE OPPOSITION TO APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION	APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION
Dec. 10-14, 2001	Dec. 15, 2001	Dec. 19, 2001	Dec. 21, 2001
Dec. 17-21, 26, 2001	Dec. 28, 2001	Jan. 02, 2002	Jan. 04, 2002

Sec. 3. *Who may be registered as members of the Katipunan ng Kabataan.* – Any *Filipino* citizen who is:

a) At least fifteen (15) but not more than twenty one (21) years of age, that is, born on any day from May 06, 1981 to May 06, 1987;
b) Actually residing in the barangay for at least six (6) months on election day.
c) Not otherwise disqualified by law.

Sec 4. *Who are disqualified to register.* - The following are disqualified to register as members of the Katipunan ng Kabataan:

a) Any person who has been sentenced by final judgment to suffer imprisonment of not less than one (1) year, such disability not having been removed by plenary pardon or amnesty. Any person so disqualified shall automatically reacquire the right to vote upon the expiration of five (5) years after service of sentence;
b) Any person who has been adjudged by final judgment of a competent court or tribunal of having committed any crime involving disloyalty to the duly constituted government, such as rebellion, sedition, violation of the firearms laws, or any crime against national security, as defined and penalized under the Revised Penal Code. However, he shall automatically regain his right to vote upon the expiration of five (5) years after service of sentence; and
c) Insane or incompetent persons as declared by competent authority.

Sec. 5. *Procedure for filing of applications for registration.* - The filing of applications for registration shall proceed as follows:

a) The applicant shall personally appear before the Election Officer of the city/municipality where he resides, state his name and exact address, specifying the house number, name of the street, area, district, *purok* or *sitio* and barangay where he resides, or a brief description of his residence, and present any of the following documents:
   1. Certificate of Live Birth;
   2. Baptismal Certificate;
   3. School records; or
   4. Any other documents that will establish his identity and qualification.

   Community Tax Certificate and certification of barangay officials shall not be honored.
b) In the absence of the above documents, another voter may, under oath, identify the applicant. However, no voter shall be allowed to identify more than three (3) applicants unless they are immediate members of his family.
c) The Election Officer shall then determine if the applicant resides within the territory of any of the barangays in the city/municipality.
   If so, the Election Officer shall explain to him the qualifications and disqualifications for registration, including the policy of the Commission as stated in Section 1 hereof. In addition, the Election Officer shall inform the applicant of the name(s) and location(s) of existing voting center(s) in the barangay, and require him to write in any available space of the application form, the name and location of the voting center that is nearest and most accessible to his residence.
d) Thereafter, the Election Officer shall record in a logbook the applicant's name and the serial number of the application form given to him and forthwith issues the application form in two (2) copies to the applicant;
e) Upon receipt of the application form, the applicant shall accomplish the two (2) copies individually in his own handwriting and in the presence of the Election Officer. The use of carbon paper shall not be allowed;
f) The Election Officer shall guide the applicant on how to accomplish the application form to ensure that all entries therein are complete, legibly written and that:
   1. The three (3) specimen of signatures of the applicant are properly affixed on each copy;
   2. The rolled imprints of his left and right thumbs are clearly and distinctly impressed.

   In case the applicant's thumbprints are blurred, smudged or faint, they shall be retaken on any available space of the application form. If the applicant refuses to have his thumbprints retaken, his accomplished application form shall be rejected by the Election Officer and marked as such accordingly. The applicant shall be informed that such rejection is equivalent to non-registration; and
   3. The name and location of the voting center nearest and most accessible to his residence.
g. In case the applicant is illiterate or physically disabled to accomplish the application form, he may be assisted by the Election Officer or any of his relative within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity or any member of an accredited citizens arm in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 8189 as implemented by Comelec Resolution No. 2904 dated March 14, 1997.
h. After accomplishing the two (2) copies of the application form, the applicant shall return the same to the Election Officer who shall verify whether or not it is the same set given by comparing its serial number with the recorded serial number of the application earlier issued and if so, examine the completeness of the data written therein.
   Any application form submitted by an applicant with a serial number different from that recorded shall be invalidated and marked with the word "REJECTED" written diagonally across the two (2) copies. Such rejected copies shall then be placed in the envelope for spoiled registration records and the applicant given another set of application, without prejudice, however, to the filing of appropriate charges, if warranted.

Sec. 6. *Notice of hearing of application.* - Upon receipt of the application, the Election Officer shall immediately set them for hearing in accordance with the schedule shown in Section 2 hereof, notices of which shall be posted in the city/municipal bulletin board and in his office, furnishing copies thereof to the applicants concerned and other accredited groups or organization in the city/municipality.

Sec. 7. *Challenge of right to register.* - Any Katipunan ng Kabataan member may challenge in writing and under oath any application for registration, stating the ground for the challenge. The challenge shall be filed at the Office of the Election Officer within the time provided under Section 2 hereof.

In case of challenge, the Election Officer shall immediately notify the applicant of the challenge and require the applicant to be present during the hearing so that he can rebut or refute the evidence against his application. The challenge shall be attached to the application together with the proof of notice of hearing to the challenger and to the applicant.

Sec. 8. *Approval or disapproval of application.* - The Election Registration Board constituted under Republic Act No. 8189 as implemented by Comelec Resolution No. 2904 dated March 14, 1997, shall act on all applications for registration and shall, by majority vote, approve or disapprove the applications in accordance with the schedule stated in Section 2 hereof.

In case of approval, any aggrieved party may file a petition for exclusion with the proper municipal or municipal circuit or metropolitan trial court not later than January 25, 2002.

In case of disapproval, the aggrieved party may file with the proper municipal or municipal circuit or metropolitan trial court a petition for inclusion not later than January 18, 2002.

If the Board disapproves the application, the applicant shall be furnished with a certificate of disapproval stating the ground or grounds for the disapproval.

Sec. 9. *Publication of action on application for registration.* - Immediately after the approval or disapproval of an application for registration, the Board shall post a notice in the bulletin board of the municipal hall and in the office of the Election Officer, stating the names and addresses of the applicants, the dates of the applications and the actions taken thereon.

Sec. 10. *Preparation of the list of Katipunan ng Kabataan members.* – After the meeting of the Election Registration Board on January 04, 2002, the Election Officer shall immediately compile all the approved applications for registration (copy for the Election Officer) by barangay, then segregate the barangay compilation according to the voting centers as indicated in the approved application for registration and arrange the approved applications alphabetically by voting centers.

The Election Officer shall keep the approved copy of the application for registration intended for the voter until such time that the voter concerned asked for it.

Thereafter, the Election Officer shall extract from the Computerized Voters List the names of voters aged 18 to 21 as of May 06, 2002, indicate their voting centers as of the last election, and include their names in the *Katipunan ng Kabataan* members with the same voting centers. The extract shall include the names of voters 18 to 21 years whose applications were approved in the January 9, 2002 hearing of the Election Registration Board.

Based on the combined list, the Election Officer shall prepare a list of voters with voting records with the names arranged alphabetically by precinct at the rate of four hundred (400) voters per precinct.

There shall be at least one precinct in every barangay.

Sec. 11. *Numbering of precincts.* – The precincts established herein shall be indicated by the initials "SK" followed by the Arabic numeral beginning with the figure "1". The numbering shall start in the barangay in a city or municipality that is first alphabetically and continue up to the last barangay that is last alphabetically in the same city or municipality.

In cities/municipalities where all barangays are numerically denominated, they shall be numbered starting from lowest to highest. In cities/municipalities where some barangays are numerically denominated and some barangays by name, the precincts shall be numbered in accordance with the alphabetical rule first followed by the numerical rule.

In the case of cities consisting of two or more legislative districts, or cities and municipalities divided into two or more councilor districts, the numbering shall start from the barangay which is first alphabetically in a district and continue up to the barangay which is last alphabetically in the same district.

Sec. 12. *Posting of the preliminary list of voters.* – On or before January 11, 2002, the Election Officer shall post the preliminary list of voters at the Office of the Election Officer and in the bulletin boards of the barangay hall concerned.

Sec. 13. *Voters excluded through inadvertence or registered with an erroneous or misspelled name.* – Any registered voter whose approved registration record has not been included in the list of voters or who has been included therein with a wrong or misspelled name may file with the Board an application for inclusion of his record, or reinstatement or correction of his name as the case may be. If it is denied or not acted upon, the voter may file on any date with the proper Municipal or Municipal Circuit or Metropolitan Trial Court a petition for an order directing that the voter's name be entered or corrected in the list. The voter shall attach to the petition a certified true copy of his registration record or identification card or the entry of his name in the list of voters, together with proof that his application for inclusion of his record or reinstatement or correction of name, as the case may be, was denied or not acted upon by the Board and that he has served notice thereof to the Board.

Sec. 14. *Petition for inclusion of voters.* – Any person whose application for registration has been disapproved by the Election Registration Board or whose name has been stricken out from the list may, not later than January 18, 2002, file with the municipal/metropolitan trial court concerned, a sworn petition for the inclusion of his name in the list of voters for the *Sangguniang Kabataan* elections.

Sec. 15. *Petition for exclusion of voters.* – Any registered voter may, not later than January 25, 2002, file with the proper municipal/metropolitan trial court, a sworn petition for the exclusion of a registered voter in the list of voters for the *Sangguniang Kabataan* elections.

Sec. 16. *Posting of the certified and final list of voters.* – The Board shall, on or before February 05, 2002, post the certified and final list of voters for the *Sangguniang Kabataan* elections at the Office of the Election Officer and in the bulletin boards of each barangay concerned.

Sec. 17. *Effectivity.* – This Resolution shall take effect seven (7) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Sec. 18. *Publication and dissemination.* – The Education and Information Department is directed to cause the widest dissemination of this Resolution and its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

SO ORDERED.

ALFREDO L. BENIPAYO
Chairman

I concur with qualification to be incorporated in and [illegible]
LUZVIMINDA G. TANCANGCO
Commissioner

4 Dec/01
RUFINO S.B. JAVIER
Commissioner

RALPH C. LANTION
Commissioner

4 Dec/01
MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

(PDI - December 6, 2001)

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Email: nvlnsur@alu-ah.net
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New photo greeting card offers unique benefits to consumers

KAMERAWORLD Inc., the country's largest photo chain, makes available a new concept in personal greetings with the introduction of the Kameraworld Greeting Card.

According to Enic L. Gueco, vice president and chief operating officer, the new greeting card offers consumers the unique benefit of sending their favorite picture in the form of a personalized greeting card. The Kameraworld Greeting Card differs from a traditional card in that it is printed on Kodak photographic paper and carries clear, sharp and vibrant pictures that depict the colors of the Christmas holidays.

"This new product is our latest digital offering designed to help advance the state of the art in digital photo imaging in the country," Gueco said. Kameraworld holds the distinction of being the first local photo chain to introduce digital photo imaging services to consumers.

The Kameraworld Greeting Card gives consumers a variety of options in creating the picture card they want to send. They can choose the headline they prefer, pick from a list of Christmas messages and specify the design that suits their personal taste. It also comes with a matching envelope.

To order the Kameraworld Greeting Card, all a consumer has to do is bring his favorite photo to a Kameraworld outlet and place his order at the photo counter. If no picture is available, the consumer may opt to have his picture taken at the Faces portrait studio inside the store.

The Kameraworld Greeting Card comes in the popular Big K size of 4x6 inches and is available at a minimum order of 12 pieces. Orders are now being accepted at all Kameraworld outlets nationwide. Interested consumers are advised to place their orders early to avoid the holiday rush.

Merry Christmas and a happy new home from Robinsons

THIS CHRISTMAS, why not get yourself and your family a different kind of gift—one that's very useful, sure to last and be most appreciated—a Robinsons Homes residential unit. Owning a home is made easy via Robinsons' Christmas Housing Craze. Get big discounts of up to 20 percent and avail of the country's fastest, easiest move-in scheme, easy financing options and more. This gigantic holiday property sale is from Dec. 7 to 9 only.

From north to south, Robinsons makes owning a unit within reach. In Antipolo, San Jose Heights is giving away discounts: a 15-percent spot cash discount, an additional 3-percent discount on the total selling price and a P10,000 early bird discount for the first 10 buyers. In Quezon City, Centennial Place is treating spot cash buyers to a whopping 20-percent discount. Down south in Dasmariñas, Cavite, Vineyard by Robinsons is making buyers happy with its affordable "Lite on the Pocket" payment schemes for house/lot and lot only packages. A 15-percent spot cash discount on selected lots also await buyers of Robinsons Highlands in Davao City.

The Christmas. Housing Craze also features the Lipat Agad offer for Southsquare Village (Gen. Trias, Cavite) and Robinsons Homes East (Antipolo). You can transfer to your row house unit instantly and easily. A unit at Southsquare is affordable as price starts from as low as P340,000.

There are also lots of super-light financing options to choose from once you invest on any Robinsons Homes unit. You can select from the following financing institutions: Robinsons Savings Bank, Pag-Ibig Fund, SSS and through its own in-housing financing where you can choose from 5, 10 to 15-year-payment terms, or you may go on a two-year zero-interest deferred cash scheme.

As an added bonus, Digitel phone line connections are immediately available for buyers of Robinsons Homes' Luzon projects.

So get that dream house you've always wanted. Call or visit Robinsons Homes Inc. now.

Republic of the Philippines
Congreſs of the Philippines
Metro Manila
Eleventh Congreſs
Third Regular Seſsion
—oOo—

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-fourth day of July, two thousand.

[Republic Act No. 8996]

AN ACT GRANTING THE END TIME MISSION BROADCASTING SERVICE INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN FOR RELIGIOUS, EDUCATIONAL AND NONCOMMERCIAL PURPOSES RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS ANYWHERE IN LUZON.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

Section 1. ***Nature and Scope of Franchise.*** — Subject to the provisions of the Constitution and applicable laws, rules and regulations, there is hereby granted to End Time Mission Broadcasting Service, Inc., hereunder referred to as the grantee, its successors or assigns, a franchise to construct, install, establish, operate and maintain for religious, educational and non commercial purposes and in the public interest, radio and television broadcasting stations anywhere in Luzon, where frequencies and channels are still available for radio and television broadcasting, through microwave, satellite or whatever means, including the use of any new technologies in television and radio systems, with the corresponding technological auxiliaries and facilities, special broadcast and other program and distribution services and relay stations.

Sec. 2. ***Manner of Operation of Stations or Facilities.*** — The stations or facilities of the grantee shall be constructed and operated in a manner as will, at most, result only in the minimum interference on the wavelengths or frequencies of existing stations or other stations which may be established by law, without in any way diminishing its own rights to use its selected wavelengths or frequencies and the quality of transmission or reception thereon as should maximize rendition of the grantee's services and/or availability thereof.

Sec. 3. ***Prior Approval of the National Telecommunications Commission.*** — The grantee shall secure from the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) the appropriate permits and licenses for the construction and operation of its stations and facilities and shall not use any frequency in the radio/television spectrum without having been authorized by the Commission. The Commission, however, shall not unreasonably withhold or delay the grant of any such authority.

Sec. 4. ***Responsibility to the Public.*** — The grantee shall provide adequate public service time to enable the government, through the said broadcasting stations or facilities, to reach the population on important public issues; provide at all times sound and balanced programming; assist in the functions of public information and education; conform to the ethics of honest enterprise; and not use its stations or facilities for the broadcasting of obscene and indecent language, speech, act or scene; or for the dissemination of deliberately false information or willful misrepresentation, to the detriment of the public interest, or to incite, encourage or assist in subversive or treasonable acts.

Sec. 5. ***Right of Government.*** — A special right is hereby reserved to the President of the Philippines, in times of war, rebellion, public peril, calamity, emergency, disaster or disturbance of peace and order, to temporarily take over and operate the stations or facilities of the grantee, to temporarily suspend the operation of any station or facility in the interest of public safety, security and public welfare, or to authorize the use and operation thereof by any agency of the government, upon due compensation to the grantee, for the use of said stations or facilities during the period when they shall be so operated.

The radio spectrum is a finite resource that is a part of the national patrimony and the use thereof is a privilege conferred upon the grantee by the State and may be withdrawn anytime after due process.

Sec. 6. ***Term of Franchise.*** — This franchise shall be for a term of twenty-five (25) years from the date of effectivity of this Act, unless sooner revoked or cancelled. This franchise shall be deemed ipso facto revoked in the event the grantee fails to comply with any of the following conditions:

(a) Commence operations within one (1) year from the approval of its operating permit or provisional authority by the NTC;

(b) Operate continuously for two (2) years; and

(c) Commence operations within three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act.

Sec. 7. ***Acceptance and Compliance.*** — Acceptance of this franchise shall be given in writing sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act. Upon giving such acceptance, the granted shall exercise the privileges granted under this Act. Nonacceptance shall render the franchise void.

Sec. 8. ***Bond.*** — The grantee shall file a bond issued in favor of the NTC, which shall determine the amount, to guarantee the compliance with and fulfillment of the conditions under which this franchise is granted. If after three (3) years from the date of the approval of its permit by the Commission, the grantee shall have fulfilled the same, the bond shall be cancelled by the Commission. Otherwise, the bond shall be forfeited in favor of the government and the franchise *ipso facto* revoked.

Sec. 9. ***Self-regulation by and Undertaking of Grantee.*** — The grantee shall not require any previous censorship of any speech, play, act or scene, or other matter to be broadcast from its stations: *Provided*, That the grantee, during any broadcast, shall cut off from the air the speech, play, act or scene, or other matter being broadcast if the tendency thereof is to propose and/or incite treason, rebellion or sedition; or the language used therein or the theme thereof is indecent or immoral; and willful failure to do so shall constitute a valid cause for the cancellation of this franchise.

Sec. 10. ***Obligation of Grantee.*** — Any person aggrieved by any remark, report, statement, commentary or the like by broadcasters using the same facilities of the grantee shall have the right to reply in the same program or any other program the aggrieved party may choose.

Sec. 11. ***Warranty in Favor of National and Local Governments.*** — The grantee shall hold the national, provincial and municipal governments of the Philippines harmless from all claims, accounts, demands or actions arising out of accidents or injuries, whether to property or to persons, caused by the construction or operation of the stations of the grantee.

Sec. 12. ***Sale, Lease, Transfer, Usufruct, Etc.*** — The grantee shall not lease, transfer, grant the usufruct of, sell nor assign this franchise or the rights and privileges acquired thereunder to any person, firm, company, corporation or other commercial or legal entity, nor merge with any other corporation or entity, nor shall the controlling interest of the grantee be transferred, whether as a whole or in parts and whether simultaneously or contemporaneously, to any such person, firm, company, corporation or entity without the prior approval of the Congress of the Philippines. Any person or entity to which this franchise is sold, transferred or assigned, shall be subject to the same conditions, terms, restrictions and limitations of this Act.

Sec. 13. ***General Broadcast Policy Law.*** — The grantee shall comply with and be subject to the provisions of a general broadcast policy law which Congress may hereafter enact.

Sec. 14. ***Equality Clause.*** — Any advantage, favor, privilege, exemption, or immunity granted under existing franchises, or may hereafter be granted, shall *ipso facto* become part of previously granted telecommunications franchises and shall be accorded immediately and unconditionally to the grantees of such franchises: *Provided, however*, That the foregoing shall neither apply to nor affect provisions of telecommunications franchises concerning territory covered by the franchise, the life span of the franchise, or the type of service authorized by the franchise.

Sec. 15. ***Separability Clause.*** — If any of the sections or provisions of this Act is held invalid, all the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid.

Sec. 16. ***Repealability and Nonexclusivity Clause.*** — This franchise shall be subject to amendment, alteration or repeal by the Congress of the Philippines when the public interest so requires and shall not be interpreted as an exclusive grant of the privileges herein provided for.

Sec. 17. ***Reportorial Requirement.*** — The grantee shall submit an annual report to the Congress of the Philippines on its compliance with the terms and conditions of the franchise and on its operations within sixty (60) days from the end of every year.

Sec. 18. ***Effectivity.*** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of its publication, upon the initiative of the grantee, in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,

FRANKLIN M. DRILON
President of the Senate

MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.
Speaker of the House
of Representatives

This Act which originated in the House of Representatives was finally passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on October 18, 2000 and October 10, 2000, respectively.

OSCAR G. YABES
Secretary of the Senate

ROBERTO P. NAZARENO
Secretary General
House of Representatives

Approved: JAN 05, 2001

JOSEPH E. ESTRADA
President of the Philippines

(PDI--Dec. 6, 2001)

Repubilka ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue
Pasig City, Philippines

PILIPINAS 2000
Sama Sama sa DECS

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education through the Bureau of Elementary Education is inviting all interested printers for the Printing and Delivery of 36,000 copies of Developing Readiness Skills for the use of Preschool Program, which is to be implemented in the twenty (20) SRA divisions. The approved budget for this program is P2,700,000.00.

All interested printers must submit a Letter of Intent before obtaining bidding documents **December 5, 2001** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Room 112-A, Mabini Building, DECS Complex, Pasig City or visit the DECS website at http://www.decs.gov.ph.

A pre-bid conference will be held on **December 13, 2001**, 10:00 AM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, DECS Complex, Pasig City. The submission and opening of bids will be on **December 20, 2001** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DECS-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO S. PANGAN**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DECS-BAC

(PDI – Dec. 5 & 6, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES AND PERIODS OF CERTAIN PROHIBITED ACTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE MAY 06, 2002 ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN.

BENIPAYO, Alfredo L.,	*Chairman*
TANCANGCO, Luzviminda G.,	*Commissioner*
JAVIER, Rufino S.B.,	*Commissioner*
LANTION, Ralph C.,	*Commissioner*
SADAIN, Mehol K.,	*Commissioner*
BORRA, Resurreccion Z.,	*Commissioner*
TUASON, Florentino A. Jr.,	*Commissioner*

Promulgated: 04 December 2001

RESOLUTION NO. 4714

Pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines, the Omnibus Election Code, Republic Acts No. 7160, 7808 and other election laws, the Commission RESOLVED to prescribe, as it hereby prescribes, the following calendar of activities and periods of prohibited acts in connection with the May 06, 2002 election of members of the Sangguniang Kabataan:

DATE/PERIOD	ACTIVITIES	PROHIBITED ACTS
December 10, 2001 (MON) to December 26, 2001 (WED)	Filing of application for registration	
December 15, 2001 (SAT)	Last day to post notice of hearing of applications filed on or before December 14, 2001	
December 19, 2001 (WED)	Last day to file opposition to applications for registration filed on or before December 14, 2001.	
December 21, 2001 (FRI)	Special Meeting of the Election Registration Boards to approve or disapprove applications for registration filed on or before December 14, 2001.	
December 26, 2001 (WED)	Last day to file applications for registration.	
December 28, 2001 (FRI)	Last day to post notice of hearings of applications for registration filed from December 17 to 26, 2001.	
January 02, 2002 (WED)	Last day to file opposition to applications for registration filed from December 17 to 26, 2001.	
January 04, 2002 (FRI)	Last meeting of the Election Registration Boards to approve or disapprove applications for registration.	
January 11, 2002 (FRI)	Posting of the preliminary list of voters at the Office of the Election Officer and in the bulletin boards of each barangay hall.	
January 18, 2002 (FRI)	Last day to file petition for inclusion of voters.	
January 25, 2002 (FRI)	Last day to file petition for exclusion of voters.	
February 05, 2002 (TUE)	Posting of the final list of voters.	
February 11, 2002 (MON)	Last day to constitute members of the board of election tellers	
February 12, 2002 (TUE)) to February 20, 2002 (WED))	Notice of inspection and verification of completeness of the Voter Registration Records for each precinct compiled in the Book of Voters.	
February 21, 2002 (THU)) to April 06, 2002 (SAT)	Inspection and verification of completeness of Voter Registration Records, and sealing of the Book of Voters.	
March 07, 2002 (THU)	Last day for head of reaction/strike forces or similar forces to submit to the Commission a complete list of all its members.	
March 07 2002 (THU) to June 05, 2002 (WED)		Illegal release of prisoners [Sec. 261 (n), OEC].
March 22, 2002 (FRI) to May 05, 2002 (SUN)		Issuing appointments, promotions, creation of positions, filling of new positions, or giving of salary increases in the civil service [Sec. 261 (g), OEC].
April 06, 2002 (SAT) to May 06, 2002 (MON)		Raising of funds thru dances, lotteries, cockfights, etc. [Sec. 97, OEC].
April 06, 2002 (SAT) to May 21, 2002 (TUE) **ELECTION PERIOD** (30 DAYS BEFORE AND 15 DAYS AFTER ELECTION)		Carrying of firearms/deadly weapons, including wearing of uniforms, insignias, etc. [Sec. 261 (p), (q), (s), OEC, as amended by Sec. 32, R.A. No. 7166]. Organizing or maintaining reaction/strict or similar forces [Sec. 261 (u), OEC]. Transfer and detail of officers and employees in the civil service, including public school teachers [Sec. 261 (h), OEC] Suspension of any elective provincial, city, municipal, or barangay officer [Sec. 261 (x), OEC]. Use of security personnel or bodyguards by candidates, whether or not such bodyguards are regular members or officers of the PNP or AFP or other government law enforcement agency [Sec. 261 (l), OEC, as amended by Sec. 33, R.A. No. 7166].
April 06, 2002 (SAT) to April 24, 2002 (WED)	Filing of certificates of candidacy.	
April 26, 2002 (THU) to May 04, 2002 (SAT) **CAMPAIGN PERIOD**	Holding of barangay assemblies and candidates fora.	Posting, displaying, distributing, using of illegal campaign materials. (Sec. 85, OEC). Removing, destroying, obliterating, defacing, tampering or preventing distribution of lawful election propaganda (Sec. 83, OEC). Making any donation or gift in cash or in kind, etc. (Sec. 104, OEC). Use of armored/land/water/air craft (Sec. 261 (r), OEC) Appointing or using special policemen, special/confidential agents, or the like (Sec. 261 (m), OEC). Construction or maintenance of provincial, city, municipal or barangay-funded roads & bridges [Sec. 3, R.A. 6679]. Note: Acts mentioned in paragraphs 3 to 6 above are prohibited until election day.
May 05, 2002 (SUN) **EVE OF ELECTION**		Campaigning [Sec. 3, OEC]. Selling, furnishing, offering, buying, serving or taking intoxicating liquor [Sec. 261 (dd), (1), OEC]. Giving/accepting free transportation, food, drinks and things of value [Sec. 89, OEC].
May 06 2002 (MON) **ELECTION DAY**	Casting of Votes (From 7:00 o'clock a.m. to 3:00 o'clock p.m.) Counting and/or Canvassing of Votes and Proclamation of Winning Candidates (Immediately after 3:00 p.m.)	Vote-buying and vote-selling [Sec. 261 (a), OEC]. Voting more than once or in substitution of another [Sec. 261 (z) (2) and (3), OEC]. Campaigning [Sec. 3, OEC]. Electioneering [Sec. 261 (k), OEC]. Selling, furnishing, offering, buying intoxicating liquor, etc. [Sec. 261 (dd), (1), OEC]. Giving and/or accepting free transportation, foods, drinks and things of value [Sec. 89, OEC]. Holding of fairs, cockfights, boxing, horse races, or similar sports [Sec. 261, (dd), (3), OEC]. Opening of booths or stalls for the sale, etc., of wares, merchandise, or refreshments, within thirty (30) meters radius from polling place [Sec. 261 (dd), (2), OEC].
May 07, 2002 (TUE) to June 05, 2002 (WED)	Filing of sworn statements of election contributions and expenditures [Sec. 14, R.A. 7166].	

The Executive Director, the Deputy Executive Director for Operations and the Director, Election and Barangay Affairs Department shall immediately implement this Resolution.

The Education and Information Department is directed to cause the widest dissemination of this Resolution and its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

This Resolution shall take effect on the seventh (7th) day after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

ALFREDO L. BENIPAYO
Chairman

I concur with the qualification to be incorporated in and [illegible]

LUZVIMINDA G. TANCANGCO
Commissioner

Absent – 4 Dec/01

RUFINO S.B. JAVIER
Commissioner

RALPH C. LANTION
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

(PDI--Dec. 6, 2001

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4138 Series of 2001

LAMCO INTERNATIONAL
MICROWAREHOUSE

DoE sees another oil price cut this month

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ENERGY Secretary Vicente Perez said oil companies were expected to further cut their prices this month following Monday's 30-centavo-per liter price rollback.

"Two major oil companies have assured me that they expect additional price cuts this month, barring any adverse development on Dec. 10," Perez said.

He was referring to a self-imposed deadline for the Russian government to decide on whether to cut its crude production.

In its meeting on Nov. 14, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries moved to cut oil production by 1.5 million barrels per day, but this was hinged on the condition that non-Opec producers—including Russia—would also cut their daily production by half a million barrels.

Perez said the 30-centavo price cut was a welcome development although he had expected bigger cuts.

He, however, refused to give an estimate of what he thought should have been slashed from the pump prices of oil products.

"We don't want to give out a pricing benchmark because we don't want to end up setting the prices. It is a free market," he stressed.

Perez said the government was hoping to see a trickle-down effect of the decreases in oil prices, particularly in transport fares.

"This is the fifth price reduction since Sept. 11. I think it is high time the commuters start to benefit from the cuts," he said.

According to data from the Department of Energy, the P1.50-per-liter price cuts effected since September translated to about P2,000 monthly savings for a jeepney driver who fills up his tank daily.

This also translates to about P250 savings per month for a motorist who fills his tank once a week.

Late last month, industrialist Raul Concepcion projected a total price cut of P1.37 centavos per liter until end of the year.

Neda, NAPC join forces to win war vs poverty

A CART for a house

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority (Neda) and the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) have agreed to work closely together in ensuring that the government would win the war against poverty.

The agreement was reached during the recently concluded inter-agency National-Regional Social Development Committee consultative meeting.

Neda and NAPC are finalizing a memorandum of agreement that will effectively implement the anti-poverty programs of the government, especially at the local level.

The MOA is in response to the issues raised by the Regional Social Development Committees (RSDCs) that the government lacked institutional mechanisms to coordinate the government's anti-poverty initiatives at the regional and sub-regional levels. The RSDCs claimed there were no definite coordinated arrangements for the implementation of the National Anti-Poverty Program of the Government.

The MOA calls for the institutionalization of coordinated mechanisms at the regional, provincial and municipal levels; provision of assistance to regional and local executives in the formulation and evaluation of local poverty action plans; the setting-up of monitoring and feedback mechanisms at the regional, provincial and municipal levels; and the design and pilot-testing of poverty reduction projects.

The MOA will also pave the way for the effective implementation of the "Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan (Kalahi)" program to fight poverty not only in urban but also in rural areas. Kalahi is the Macapagal administration's framework and program for an expanded, accelerated and focused strategy against poverty.

Kalahi targets the poorest municipalities and barangays and ensures that stakeholders like non-government organizations (NGOs), local government units (LGUs), private sector and the academe are important partners.

At present, there are 30 pilot urban poor communities who are benefiting from the programs of Kalahi, including four Muslim poor communities.

NAPC indicated during the consultative meeting that the municipalities and barangays for the rural pilot areas have yet to be identified.

The criteria for identifying priority areas include: high poverty incidence; communities experiencing or recovering from crisis or armed conflict; presence of asset reform problem or large gap in asset reform program; presence of vulnerable poor sectors; and those not included in major financial assistance projects.

FMC urges Ford to stop selling Rangers in RP

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

FRANCISCO Motors Corp. has formally asked Ford Motor Co. Philippines Inc. to stop selling Ford Rangers in the country but the American automotive giant has ignored the Las Piñas-based assembler's plea.

The Ranger uses the same platform as that of Mazda B-series pick up which Francisco Motors has been making and marketing for 25 years under an exclusive contract until Ford and its 30 percent-owned affiliate Mazda Corp. of Japan came in and introduced the Ranger in 1999.

In a letter, Ford Motor Philippines president Terry J. Emrick, Francisco Motors legal counsel Eleazar G. Ferry said that Francisco Motors owned the exclusive right to import the Ranger-Mazda B-Series models.

"You (Ford) have no right to request for Import Authority from the BOI (Board of Investments) to import Ford Ranger and Econovan models," he added in the same letter.

Francisco Motors also owns the import authority for the Mazda E2000 series vans which is similar to the Ford Econovan that Ford reportedly wants to introduce in the local market in 2002.

Ferry said that Francisco Motors had formally withdrawn its 'no objection letter' to Ford's registration of the Ranger and Econovan models from the BOI. The BOI does not allow dual registration of similar models unless the new entrant (in this case Ford) gets the consent of the current holder (Francisco Motors).

Ferry noted that Francisco Motors submitted its no objection letter at the behest of the BOI, which meant that even the agency had recognized the distinct similarities between the Ford Ranger and Mazda B-series pick-ups at the time of Ford Philippines' application in 1999.

Francisco Motors said Ford has continued to ignore its letter because the American's were confident of the government's backing considering its pledge of huge investments.

In October 2000, the BOI, in a major policy reversal, ruled that the Ranger and B-Series pick ups were different models and allowed the American car giant to continue selling the Ranger while the pioneering Filipino assembler is left holding the proverbial empty bag. Francisco Motors has appealed the decision, which is still pending with the agency.

Francisco was allegedly duped into submitting a no objection letter to the BOI after it reached an agreement with Mazda to form a joint venture (along with Columbian Autocars Corp. which assembles the Mazda Familia) that was supposed to handle the marketing side of the Ford/Mazda vehicles once Ford takes over the production side.

But Ford snubbed the deal and rolled out the Ford Ranger in 1999 when Francisco Motors had an existing contract to distribute the Mazda B-Series up to 2002. Francisco Motors accused the two of conspiracy as Mazda also stopped the supply of new B-series assembly packs to Francisco Motors since the Ranger was introduced in the local market.

Francisco Motors had demanded a $10-million compensation from Ford and Mazda to settle the dispute but the foreign companies merely scoffed at the offer. Ford and Mazda had reportedly paid at least $10 million in compensation to Columbian for posing no objection to the local distribution of the Ford Lynx is similar to its Mazda Familia.

November inflation . . .

(From page B1)

percent; fuel, light and water, 8.4 percent from 9.3 percent; services, 7.3 from 9.1 percent; and miscellaneous items, 3.2 percent from 3.5 percent.

The inflation rate for food alone sharply dropped to 2.5 percent in November from 3.7 percent in October.

By region, inflation in Metro Manila slid to 4.6 percent in November from 6.1 percent in October while inflation in the provinces dropped to 4.3 percent from 5.2 percent.

AB Capital Securities analyst Jose Vistan said the November inflation rate was in line with the expectation of Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas of 4.5 percent for the period.

Vistan pointed out that since the bulk of the consumer price index consisted of food and beverage, supply of these basic goods has been relatively stable because good weather has allowed good harvests.

Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas said: "It gives more room to lower interest rates some more although we'd like to see whether banks will take a more aggressive lending stance."

Roxas said it was in the interest of banks to expand their lending porftolio or otherwise be contented with investing their funds in low-yielding, fixed-income government securities.

Poor sales hit Proton's latest 'Juara' vehicle

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia's national carmaker Proton has temporarily halted production of its new multipurpose vehicle, the Juara, due to poor sales, a report said Wednesday.

Since its July 22 launch, only 850 Juara vehicles had been sold, well short of the 5,000 to 6,000 that Proton hoped to sell by yearend, the Business Times quoted sources as saying.

The sources said the existing stock for Juara was sufficient to meet demand, and continued production would raise inventory costs and pressure profit margins.

"It is just an adjustment in production because demand is not so good at the moment," a source said.

Officials at Proton were not immediately available for comment.

Analysts said phasing out the Juara, which meant "champion" in Malay, was a prudent step amid the economic gloom but could hurt Proton's move into the market for larger vehicles.

Sources said Proton was also considering venturing in the medium term into the small car segment, which was dominated by the country's second carmaker, Perodua.

Proton is expected to introduce a sports car based on the Lotus M250 platform, known as Proton Ultimate, and a small sport-utility vehicle over the next two years, the report said.

It would also roll out the Waja 1.8-liter model in the first quarter next year followed by replacement models for the Satria and Wira models in 2004, it added. *AFP*

Japan in worst slump ever

NEW YORK—The Japanese economy, widely thought to have fallen into recession in the third quarter, may be headed for its worst slump on record, business cycle researchers at the Economic Cycle Research Institute said on Tuesday.

Cyclical indicators for the Japanese economy, based on data series that go back to the 1950s, tumbled in September, suggesting gross domestic product was set to worsen sharply and might eclipse the depth of Japan's 1974-1975 recession, ECRI said in a report.

Japanese GDP figures for the July-September period, scheduled for release on Friday, look certain to confirm Japan has entered its fourth recession in a decade.

"We are talking about the worst recession ever seen in Japan. That's a prediction. We are not going to know if that is right for a few years," said Lakshman Achuthan, managing director of New York-based ECRI.

ECRI, which designs short- and long-term indexes aimed at predicting business cycles, recessions and recoveries in the world's top economies, said its Japanese diffusion index fell to a record low of 0.091 in September, dipping below the earlier low of 0.125 recorded in January 1975.

The index captures a broad range of data across Japan's economy, including employment, production, financial markets, sales, housing and confidence measures.

The Japanese leading diffusion index, a subset of ECRI's diffusion index designed to forecast future economic performance, also plunged in September.

"We are going back beyond the worst experience we can see, which is 1974-1975," he said.

He said the grim forecast reflected in part a steep synchronized global slowdown, which had seen US demand for imports tumble, squeezing overseas markets for Japanese goods.

"Now our (US) imports are dropping at record rates. What are they going to do? You get into a synchronous global slowdown, and all of a sudden all of these weak links pop up. What is scary is we are looking at the world's second largest economy and saying it is a weak link," Achuthan said.

Achuthan also said ECRI's future inflation gauge predicted Japan's deflationary spiral was set to worsen.

"They have had mild deflation since the beginning of 1999 and the Future Inflation Gauge has made a very sharp move down. That indicates that we go to mild deflation to decidedly less than mild," he said.

Earlier this year, ECRI forecast the first US recession in a decade even when Wall Street was betting on a soft landing for the US economy.

Achuthan said ECRI's indexes of Japanese leading indicators had correctly predicted the recession of 1997 as well as a spurt of gross domestic product growth in 1999. *Reuters*

Tokyo braces for recession

TOKYO—A global technology slump coupled with fallout from the terror attacks in the United States and discovery of mad cow disease at home knocked Japan into recession in the third quarter to September, economists said.

Gross domestic product data to be released on Friday will show a quarter-on-quarter contraction of around 0.6 percent over July-September, according to market consensus.

The world's second largest economy shrank 0.7 percent in the three months to June. Two consecutive quarters in decline are widely defined as recession.

"This will be the confirmation, although the official timing of the date of the recession is more likely to be back in January," said ING Barings chief economist Richard Jerram. *AFP*

Argentina crisis seen nearing end game

BUENOS AIRES/WASHINGTON—Argentina's yearlong financial crisis moved closer to an end game on Tuesday with talk that the International Monetary Fund was pressing the recession-plagued nation to either devalue the peso or adopt the US dollar as its currency.

A source in Washington said IMF managing director Horst Koehler sent a letter to Argentine President Fernando de la Rua in November spelling out tough choices.

"We have given them options, and the options are to dollarize or devalue. That is what Argentina is left with," an IMF source told Reuters of the letter.

IMF spokesperson Thomas Dawson denied, however, that the letter discussed devaluation of the peso or dollarization.

The South American country, which has rarely been free of political or economic turmoil in the past three decades, has looked increasingly desperate to fend off an economic crash in recent days.

Analysts say devaluation in Argentina will create widespread bankruptcies, the biggest sovereign debt default ever and shake an already weakened global economy.

Argentines, fearing their savings could be frozen, withdrew $1.3 billion from the country's banks in a 24-hour period late last week, emptying cash machines and pounding on bank doors to demand their money.

Capital controls installed over the weekend, including a government ban on withdrawals of more than $250 a week for the next three months, seem to have stemmed the run on the banks for now. *Reuters*

Australian economy grows 1.1% in Q3

SYDNEY—Australia's economy powered ahead in the September quarter, thanks to upbeat consumers and businesses, figures on Wednesday showed, as growth continued to outstrip all the nation's major trading partners.

The news came just two hours after the Reserve Bank pumped even more stimulus into the economy to ensure that activity would hold up with its sixth interest rate cut for the year.

The national accounts showed that gross domestic product, the broadest measure of economic activity, jumped by 1.1 percent in the three months to September, compared with economists' forecast of growth of 0.9 percent.

"Domestic demand is running at 3 percent or a bit more, and that is certainly the sort of strength we need to offset the global slowdown," said National Australia Bank head of market economics Tony Pearson.

And with upward revisions to previous quarters, annual growth also picked up to a relatively resilient 2.5 percent compared with expectations for 2 percent.

Growth in the three months to June was revised up to 1.1 percent from 0.9 percent.

Strength in the latest period was broadly based, helped by free-spending consumers, a building boom and higher-than-expected business investment.

The report kept the Aussie dollar supported near its high for the day at 51.4 US cents after recovering from a one-month low, while the March bill futures dropped five basis points to imply just a 50-percent chance of another easing. *Reuters*

Post-Napster online music era debuts

SAN FRANCISCO—The post-Napster legal online music distribution era begins this week, as recording industry-backed websites begin their for-pay subscription services.

San Francisco-based Listen.com launched its Rhapsody service Monday and Seattle's RealNetworks was to debut its MusicNet web service Tuesday.

Pressplay, a site run by Sony Music Entertainment and Universal Music Group, is expected to launch by early next year.

The services are the progeny of Napster, the wildly successful but illegal online music file swapping service that shut down after a US judge ruled that the site allowed users to engage in wholesale copyright infringement.

Napster, which has taken on millions of dollars in investments by Bertlesmann, is trying to launch by the beginning of next year, but record companies have been reluctant to license their catalogs to what was once a pirate network.

The online music market is expected to top $1.6 billion by 2005, according to the technology consultancy IDC. *AFP*

generation e business

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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

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Smart Money cobrands with MTV

AWARD-WINNING Smart Money MasterCard Electronic has now partnered with MTV Asia to provide a strong youth lifestyle personality to the world's first prepaid e-cash card.

The two parties have agreed to jointly market customized Smart Money-MTV cards, which, aside from allowing Smart subscribers to make payments using their mobile phones, will also enable them to receive discounts and privileges in selected MTV partner merchants as well as invitations to special MTV events.

The specially designed cards, which was launched last Nov. 17 simultaneously with the new Smart Center in Virra Mall, Greenhills, is part of the "Simply Amazing Treats" campaign of Smart Communications this holiday season.

"We are pleased to partner with MTV. This cobranding is definitely an innovative marketing program for the youth that complements our existing marketing promotion for Smart Money," said Anastacio Martirez, head of personal communications and mobile services division for Smart Communications Inc.

"The chance to partner with Smart in the Philippines on the Smart Money-MTV card is an exciting one, and reinforces MTV as the leading youth lifestyle and entertainment brand. Together with MTV Philippines, MTV Ink, mtvasia.com and our MTV-syndicated radio program, the Smart Money-MTV card is yet another effort on our end to give our viewers a 360-degree MTV experience," said Peter Bullard, managing director, MTV Southeast Asia and senior vice president, MTV Asia.

Subscribers who wish to obtain the Smart Money-MTV card need to buy the Smart Money-MBS SIM. He/she can personalize his standard or existing Smart Money card by choosing from four specially designed MTV cards. The card is auto-enrolled in the P200 per annum Smart Money Loyalty program.

Current cardholders can apply for the customized card by simply filling out an information sheet. A P200 annual fee will be deducted from his/her Smart Money balance, if he/she is not yet enrolled in the Loyalty Program. If the cardholders has previously enrolled the fee is reduced to P100. He/she will also carry-over his current MCOM No. and loyalty points. Upon delivery of his new MTV Card, he/she will call the Smart Money Hotline to activate his/her new card.

"What's good about having the MTV card is that one can be eligible for the promos and discounts open to existing Smart Money cardholders as well as to those exclusively for MTV cardholders," said Dennis Gatuslao, Smart e-services manager.

"The e-cash card then becomes a discount card to MTV merchants and event pass to MTV concerts and presentations," he added.

Developed in cooperation with 1st e-Bank and MasterCard, Smart Money is the world's first prepaid cash linked to a mobile phone. It works like an electronic wallet in the form of a MasterCard into which cash can be loaded from various sources such as bank accounts and other Smart Money cards through a Smart GSM cellphone, or over-the-counter reloading centers.

The Smart Money card can be used for face-to-face payments in the approximately 20,000 MasterCard Electronic establishments nationwide.

Used with a Smart cellphone, Smart Money can be used for remote payments of pizzas, flowers and other deliveries from wherever a subscriber is. It enables subscribers to reload "Buddy" airtime over the air, inquire about their available Smart Buddy balance and to transfer money from one card to another. Furthermore, it supports Internet-based online payments.

MTV is Asia's Most Wanted Music Channel, viewed by more young adults than any other music channel. MTV Networks Asia owns and operates five 24-hour programming services – MTV Southeast Asia, MTV Philippines, MTV Mandarin, MTV India and MTV Korea –which have a combined distribution of more than 130 million homes. It also has programming blocks in distribution of more than 130 million homes. It also has programming blocks in China on local cable stations. MTV Networks Asia is a joint venture of MTV Networks, a division of Viacom Inc. and Universal Music. MTV Networks International reaches more than one quarter of the world's television households.

UNIVERSAL MCCANN MEDIA TEAM

Shown during the recent presentation of Universal McCann's landmark study on global media at the Powerplant cinema are members of the Universal McCann media team (seated) Venus Navalta, Jean Tanseco, Ana Garra, Josette Feliciano, May Bernarte, Ting Navarro, (standing) Malu Vasallo, Cookie Bartolome, Maris Barredo, Leo Mata, Adel Tuason, Arnie Bunagan, Rey Inobaya and Egay Navalta.

M2M ALBUM LAUNCH PARTY

It's the biggest party event M2M fans have been waiting for. All roads lead to the Hall A of the World Trade Center tomorrow night, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m. as M2M throws a big launch party for their newest album 'The Big Room'. M2M gives an exclusive live performance of songs off 'The Big Room,' including the hit carrier single 'Everything', as well as few select hits from their multi-platinum selling debut album 'Shades of Purple'. On Saturday, Dec. 8, the girls will get personal with their fans at the SM Megamall for a fans day-cum-autograph signing session at the Atrium of the Building A, SM Megamall at 4 p.m. The M2M promo tour was also made possible by MEG Magazine, Discovery Suites, Eventscape Manila and Monster Radio RX 93.1 in cooperation with Nesvita Cereal Drink and in part by Globe Gentext Handyphone.

GMA BOOSTS BORACAY

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo recently unveiled the markers for the Boracay Environmental Infrastructure Project aimed to improve and expand the water supply and solid waste disposal facilities of the island. The P500-million project is expected to be fully operational by December in preparation for the arrival of local and foreign tourists during the Christmas holidays.

NG PANGULO NG

Nestle Philippines appoints new marketing head

MANGHARDT

NESTLE Phils. Inc. announces the appointment of Yves Manghardt as executive vice president for marketing. He assumes his new position in September, following his stint as country manager of Nestle Singapore (Pte) Ltd.

Manghardt brings with him vast experiences gained from postings in several Asian countries. Prior to his assignment in Singapore, he served as country manager of Nestle Vietnam, and as general manager of Nestle operations in Hong Kong. He has also worked previously with Nestle in Japan and Sri Lanka.

Nestle Phils. chair and CEO Juan B. Santos warmly welcomed Manghardt, citing his expertise in key accounts management as an invaluable asset to the company.

Manghardt is in his early 40s. He is married and has two children. A Swiss national, he completed his studies in Lausanne. Manghardt first joined Nestle in 1984.

CONTRACT SIGNING
HUGGIES
Little tikes

CONTRACT SIGNING

Little Tikes Fun that Lasts and Kimberly-Clark Phil., makers of Huggies Baby Diapers, recently launched its Redemption Promo. The more Huggies Baby Diaper wrappers you have, the more points you can earn to avail discounted Little Tykes toys. Present during the agreement were Philip Tan, AVP for marketing, Little Tikes; Shirleen Velasquez, Kimberly-Clark Phil. assistant product manager for Huggies; Digna Santos, Kimberly-Clark Phil. marketing director; Gerry Lim, senior vice president for marketing for Little Tikes; Ma. Elyza Bermudez-Coteng, Kimberly-Clark Phil. product manager for Huggies and Allan Singson, brand/product manager, Little Tikes.

ABOITIZ GROUP FOUNDATION INC.

ABOITIZ DONATES TO GRAD SCHOOL

THE Asian Institute of Management Scientific Research Foundation Inc. (AIM SRF) and the Aboitiz Group Foundation Inc. recently held a signing ceremony for the Aboitiz's donation to the W. SyCip Graduate School of Business Management Fund held at the Geny Lopez Gallery, AIM Building. Aboitiz Group Foundation's contribution is in recognition of Washington SyCip's lifelong involvement in socio-civic affairs and his dedication to fostering management education in the region. Shown during the signing are (seated, from left) Roberto F. de Ocampo, AIM president; Washington SyCip, AIM co-chair; Jon Ramon Aboitiz, Aboitiz Group Foundation Inc. chair and Erramon Aboitiz, Aboitiz Group Foundation Inc. president.

GK BAGS LAUNCHED AT GLORIETTA

The CFC Ancop Gawad Kalinga—GK Bags were formally introduced to the public recently at Glorietta Activity Center with Senator Manny B. Villar as special guest. With the senator during the ribbon cutting ceremony were, from left: Ruby Borja, marketing director of the Foundation for the Fullness and Integrity of Creation (FFIC)—the marketing arm of GK Bags; Gerry S. Padilla, FFIC chair, Fr. Ben Beltran, Parish Priest of Sambayanan ng Muling Pagkabuhay (SMPPP); Bernie Cuevas, FFIC vice president, Shirley Bangayan and Dr. Bangy Bangayan, chair of CFC Ancop Gawad Kalinga. GK Bags can be found at the ground floor of Glorietta I Kart/Stall near the Glorietta Activity Center, Makati City.

BITS Clips

Inquirer Photo Club exhibit

IN CELEBRATION of the 16th anniversary of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, its Employees Services and Development Center presents the Photo Club exhibit from Dec. 3 to 7 at the lobby of the ground floor of The Philippine Daily Inquirer Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. The theme of the exhibit is "Images", and features creative, thought-provoking shots from photo enthusiast employees of the Inquirer.

Pediatrica celebrates pearl

PEDIATRICA, the pediatric specialist, whose mission is to provide quality products so the child may live in total health, celebrates 30 years of caring for the Filipino children today, Dec. 6. There will be charity visits to Bantay Bata, PGH and the National Children's Hospital. A thanksgiving mass will be held at Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Valle Verde V, Pasig City.

IECEP national confab in Cebu

THE INSTITUTE of Electronics and Communications Engineers of the Philippines (IECEP), the accredited professional organization of the more than 23,000 electronics and communications engineers in the Philippines, will hold its national convention on Dec. 7 to 9 at the Cebu Plaza Hotel in Lahug, Cebu City. The first day of the convention features the opening ceremonies of a trade exhibit, a golf and bowling tourney, the oathtaking of new ECEs and a fellowship dinner. Technical seminars on new technologies will be conducted during the second day, along with the 21st National ECE Interscholastic Quiz. The 51st annual general meeting and election of next year's officers on Dec. 9 will climax the affair. Special convention packages are available with various hotels in Cebu, along with discounted fares from WG&A Superferry. For inquiries, call the IECEP national office in Manila (687-7187/687-1676; e-mail iecep@info.com.ph) or the Visayas Regional Chapter in Cebu (032-232-2204); e-mail iecep_vrc@cvis.net.ph).

'The Season's Best Bazaar' opens

WOULD you like to get your Christmas shopping done and do a good deed at the same time? The Aurelio Periquet Jr. Foundation, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), and Philexport have provided a place where you can do just that: "The Season's Best Bazaar" on Dec. 7 to 9 at the Urban Bank Plaza in Makati. The bazaar will be set up like an authentic French market with tents and canopies, park benches and street lights, and will have 100 booths offering local and imported decorative items, furniture, clothing, shoes, audio products, toys and collectibles, gift items, books, accessories, fresh fruits and wines and Christmas goodies from the Manila Hotel. By shopping at the bazaar, you help support the Aurelio Periquet Jr. Foundation and the Aurelio Periquet Jr. Business Scholarship Fund that aims to send poor but deserving scholars to college. For inquiries, call the Aurelio Periquet Jr. Foundation secretariat at 894-4774 or 810-9652.

LG, Otis merger produces Sigma

LG INDUSTRIAL Systems Co. Ltd. and Otis Elevator Company, two of the biggest companies that have been manufacturing top-of-the-line elevators and escalators for close to a century, have merged. The union signifies the birth of the brand name Sigma. To celebrate the launch of Sigma here in the country, a special party dubbed Rebirth: The Sigma Launch Party, is slated today, Dec. 6, at 6 p.m. at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental. The event, organized by Eventscape Manila, will be hosted by comedienne Giselle Sanchez and will have retro band Fat Session performing 70s hits. For inquiries, call Ria Reyes at 561-7606 or 561-0442.

Justice Secretary keynotes Paddbapi confab

JUSTICE Secretary Hernando B. Perez will be the guest of honor and speaker at the 11th National Convention of the Philippine Association of Dangerous Drugs Board-Accredited Physicians Inc. (Paddbapi) at the Manila Hotel today, Dec. 6, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. The affair will have a holy mass to be officiated by Rev. Fr. Ronie Arong. Details may be obtained from the secretariat headed by Jacqueline Madrideo as well as Dr. Sarah C. Bellosillo, Dr. Gloria Fernandez, Dr. Leah Panopio, Dr. Rosendo Sualog, and other Paddbapi officers at 527-3213/527-3203 or 0917-5324722.

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Sealed bids in the prescribed form shall be received until Dec. 20, 2001 NPC-SPUG MMSS Office, 2/F Training Center Building, Quezon Avenue cor. Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City and shall then and there be opened and publicly read.

TIME: **2:00 PM**

Additional information, request for inspection and bid forms at P50.00 per set may be secured from Bidding Committee at the above address or call tel. No. (02) 921-3190.

Deadline for the issuance of bid forms is Dec. 19, 2001.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein and to accept/reject such proposals as may be advantageous to its interest.

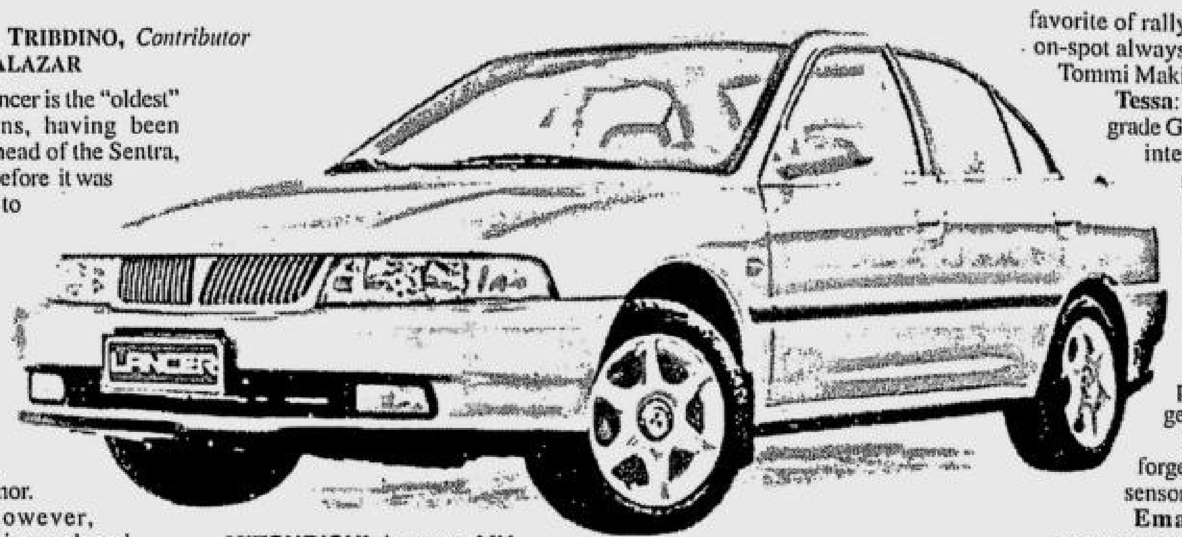
SPUG ASSET MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE, SPUG-Visayas
(Sgd.) **R.C. CASTILLO**
Chairman

(PDI – Dec. 6, 2001)

MITSUBISHI LANCER MX

Combining convenience, high-tech in 1.6-liter sedan

BY RAYMOND B. TRIBDINO, *Contributor*
AND TESSA R. SALAZAR



MITSUBISHI Lancer MX

MITSUBISHI'S Lancer is the "oldest" of the 2001 sedans, having been launched months ahead of the Sentra, Civic and Corolla. Before it was formally introduced to the motoring press, the rumor was that Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. was ready to release the all-new Lancer (known as the Cedia in Japan and other markets). That remained a rumor.

Mitsubishi however, successfully reengineered and revamped the current platform, first introduced in 1997. It is the same one upon which the all-conquering Evolution V and VI are built on.

But its drivetrain technology more than the shiny chromed parts and slotted front grille that sets the 2001 Lancer MX apart from other sedans of its class. We discover why.

Invecs, what?

Tessa: It is the Intelligent and Innovative Vehicle Electronic Control System. Invecs. Yes, the Japanese love these tech-sounding acronyms. The 2001 Mitsubishi Lancer MX uses the upgraded version of the system, Invecs-II Sports Mode. So what's the story here?

Raymond: The class-leading Invecs-II is essentially an automatic transmission that can also operate like a clutchless manual gearbox. I say "like" because using the manual side of the tranny does not provide real-time output all the time. Once out of a particular rev range you cannot upshift or downshift to the desired gear even if you wanted to. But that doesn't mean the system does not operate well. Several hours of seat time with the new Invecs proved to be a satisfying revelation. When used properly, the system can provide the responsiveness not usually found in an automatic transmission while retaining its clutch-free convenience.

Tessa: Aside from the Sports Mode setting, what is the big fuss about this system?

Raymond: For one thing, it uses sensors to detect up to 210 different driving factors. Things like slope, grade, speed, load are normally detected even by other automatic transmission systems. Invecs includes driver inputs like throttle use and braking action. Combining these driving patterns with other variables mentioned previously, Invecs II actually makes decisions on shifting, optimizing engine performance and theoretically, increasing drive train life, as well as improving on fuel efficiency.

Tessa: The brochure says that "The Invecs-II technology is present even on the Sports Mode."

Raymond: The advanced gearing system sort of puts the Lancer in the same league with Porsche's Tiptronic, Jaguar's J-Gate and BMW's Steptronic. At least on a purely theoretical basis. The technologies and costs of these combined manual/automatic transmissions differ a lot. But the motivation behind it is the same; A/T convenience, M/T choices.

Tessa: Pretty high-tech stuff for a 1.6-liter compact car.

Raymond: Invecs-II is Formula One technology, kind of strange for a company that has not been directly involved in Formula One racing. Well, except in the '50s when they developed a Colt-powered Formula racing car that won in the Japanese Grand Prix. Invecs II is also found in the Galant—another excellent car that is going to pasture—waiting for the new model to arrive.

Guaranteed safe

Tessa: The Lancer MX has airbags and the usual crumple zone. Charles discussed all this in his article last week. But are these systems really safe?

Raymond: At least for the Lancer, that I can guarantee you. How? Well, many, many, many weekends ago, when the motoring press was invited to the Lancer launch at the Subic International Raceway, one Lancer crashed into the heavy concrete-and-tire barrier at the tight hairpin. Investigation proved it was driver error, not anything in the Lancer that caused the accident. It was a semilateral crash, with a sideways skid mark of nearly 60 feet. The airbags deployed as they should have, the crumple zone absorbed the most of the impact of the crash, the windshield popped off its base, still intact as it should, and the engine cut off correctly. Naturally both passengers were alive, shaken and stirred. But very much alive. In fact, they walked out of the mishap with nothing but bruised egos.

Tessa: It also has antilock brakes. Other cars have that, too.

Raymond: Yes. But no other carmaker challenged the daring (and often crazy) motoring press to go flat out into a pylon-lined chicane to test the efficiency of the ABS. I was cornering the Lancer with foot firmly on the brake pedal and kept control throughout the test course.

Engine-nomics

Raymond: A high-revving 4G92 engine outputs a wholesome 124 PS at 6,000 rpm and 151 nm of torque at 5,000 rpm. Those numbers may not be as dramatic as the ones from the new Civic VTEC or the Corolla, but the Lancer MX engine's power is maximized thanks to the Invecs-II.

Tessa: And you can feel it throughout the powerband?

Raymond: That's correct. The engine has a relatively flat torque curve providing the jab needed to keep the rev-happy transmission humming. Then there is more than ample punch for power on the tap when needed.

Tessa: The Lancer MX also sports 15-inch multispoke alloy rims, suspension with self-aligning toe-control link. What do they do?

Raymond: They give it the handling that makes the Lancer platform a favorite of rallye drivers. Adroit and on-spot always. Ask Freddy Loix or Tommi Makinnen.

Tessa: I really like the high-grade German leather seats and interior trimmings. I have my reservations about the disco-ey audio system with in-dash CD player and flashing LED display. And the new headlamp, rear finisher and chrome-plated vertical-fin grilles get high scores.

Raymond: Don't forget the optional reversing sensor.

Eman Parazo (*sales manager, one of the first Lancer MX owners*): After browsing through several automobile websites I already had prior knowledge of how the new Civic, Sentra and Corolla looked like even before I decided to get a Lancer. But I've always liked the Lancer, my first one, in 1981, was a five-year-old "L" type. It never disappointed me, so I figured why should I switch, even if the Civic is so alluring. Besides the Lancer is as close as I can get to my current dream car—the Evolution VI.

In conclusion

With all the improvements done on this 1.6-liter Lancer in terms of styling and road performance, there is little doubt that the Lancer MX is a truly successful product. And even if the sales charts aren't responding it does not mean that it is way past its prime, though admittedly, its age is showing. The MX is still full of potential and we give it **8 out of 10** total points.

Well-mannered handling and a technologically superior drive train receive the highest points along with the excellent cabin ergonomics and comfort. The styling did not get any vicious comments and was well-received by all raters, but with only middle-of-the road ratings. "It is because it looks so older than the new sedans from the competitors," explains one rater.

The Lancer MX and its brothers—the GLS and 1.5 GLX—are surely up for a full model change in the coming months. Mitsubishi has kept mum about this issue but officially said that "...even if the Corolla, Sentra and Civic have their full model changes...we are already prepared to counter the Lancer's competitors spec for spec." The technological upgrades and design philosophies in this model may just pave the way for the all-new Lancer. And that we will all wait for.

Universal Motors introduces Nissan Frontier Limited Edition

NISSAN Frontier Limited Edition

UNIVERSAL Motors Corp., in commemoration of its 30th anniversary of business partnership with Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. of Japan, is introducing to the market a special Limited Edition Nissan Frontier.

A leading performer by many definitions such as innovation, quality, value, utility and safety, the Nissan Frontier has surely gained ground in an industry where rivalry is very fierce and survival of the fittest is the game plan. The Frontier has consistently been a formidable contender in the pickup industry, being the first to introduce automatic transmission and driver-side airbag in pickups. Following the introduction of the Nissan Frontier Pleasure Series last June of this year, here comes another addition to the Frontier's long list of achievements.

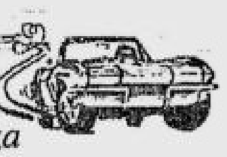
The Nissan Frontier Limited Edition in monotone colors boasts of new window visors, fog lamps and a bumper over rider for that truck toughness and at the same time, complementing its car-like features and add to its stylishness. A Limited Edition badge stands out proudly on its sidings, signifying it is a cut above the rest. While all of these upgraded features can be found on both the 4x4 and 4x2 variants, the latter also now brags of its new chrome mags, over fenders and a secure alarm system aside from the standard features.

Value for money due to its exceptional performance, utmost safety and convenience is what pickup buyers get when they opt for a Nissan Frontier. It is no wonder then that the Nissan Frontier has maintained its market leadership year-to-date as the No. 1 selling diesel-engine compact pickup in the combined 4x2 and 4x4 double cab compact pickup segment.

The Nissan Frontier Limited Edition is available in the market for a limited time only. For further inquiries, go to your nearest Nissan dealer now. Universal Motors is the exclusive Philippine assembler and distributor of Nissan light commercial and recreational vehicles such as the Nissan Frontier, Patrol, Terrano and Urvan.

'Tis the season of buying cars

FULL TANK



Al S. Mendoza

FILIPINOS are weird. Weird in a funny way, that is.

They love to gripe about not having enough money. But come Christmas season, they will spend a lot. Money would drip out of their ears like a rabbit jumping out of a magician's hat. Thus, there'd be expensive food on the table. New clothes for the kids. Shoes. Appliances. House renovation. Trips abroad. Name it. They'll spend for it.

Even a new car to fit into the already-crowded garage.

* * *

Already, some of my friends have bought cars.

Not actually the car of their dreams. But they still buy.

"The family wants another car, so I bought another car," said one. "*Pang*-Christmas *na.*"

"In the spirit of Christmas, I need to buy a new car," said another. "I might sell one of my old cars. You know anyone who wants a slightly used car?"

"My wife wants a new one," said yet another. "Even if she sparingly uses her car, she demands a new one. So a new one she will have. *Para wala nang satsat pa.*"

* * *

My golf buddy, Sam Esguerra of the Architects Golf Classic fame, rides a Volvo.

"It's really a nice car," said Sam, who recently staged the 10th year of his golf babe at Sta. Elena with much success as usual. "It is what a car should really be."

Sam has other cars in the garage. But he said he always preferred using his Volvo "even when I visit my beach house in Binmaley (Pangasinan)."

* * *

Speaking of Volvo, I missed the company's "We Can't Stop Christmas" party on Dec. 4 at Rockwell's Dish where the famous Spirit of '67 Band performed. But I'm sure Volvo's Lyn O. Manalansang and Bonjin Bolinao understood. Am holed up here in Baguio covering the Fil-Am Golf championships.

Present in the party, among others, were Volvo president and CEO Albert Arcilla and Magnus Boman, vice president of Volvo Cars Area Asia, who freely mingled with the nation's leading motoring journalists.

Speaking of "spirits," we also have our own Spirit of '67 group which I happen to head; it's composed of members of my high school class. Heard the Spirit of '67 Band, which plays regularly at Shangri-La Manila, is good. But is it better than my band (Emmanuel Band) that plays Friday nights at Emmanuel Café on Kalayaan Avenue in Quezon City?

"Of course your band's better, Sir Al," said Honda's Tin Tin Reyes.

But Tin Tin's biased. She really adored my voice (ahem!) the first time she heard me do "I Saw Her Standing There" by The Beatles some months back.

"You sound like Paul McCartney," said she after my piece, shaking my hand furiously.

Oh, well. Times, they aren't a-changing at times.

* * *

But back to the car buyers in the season of hope.

One friend of mine bought the 2002 Isuzu Trooper because "it's the best diesel engine-powered vehicle in the world." He bought an Isuzu Fuego fleet (12) last year for his company.

"Every driver of my company that I talked to attested to the good performance of the Fuego," said my friend.

And that's not to say Gov. Manny Pinol of North Cotabato once bought three Fuegos from my friend Milton Liu of Davao's Southern Motors of the same color—silver. (But my Pareng Gov has since added a Toyota Grandea to his collection of Fuegos.)

Another friend bought an Isuzu Crosswind the first time it hit the market some months back.

"I am a loyalist," he said. "I have never switched to any vehicle since I started buying Isuzus."

Wow! Van and Art must be in Cloud 9 these days.

* * *

I got a lot of feedback regarding my report here last week that the rehabilitation project at the Northern Luzon Tollways has been shelved temporarily. The project will resume, hopefully, in 2004.

"A bleak Christmas for us regular users of the North Expressway," said one who gave his address as Mangatarem, Pangasinan. "Is that final?"

Only the Board of Investments can say if that's final or not.

* * *

Angelo S. Sambo wrote to say the Manila North Tollways Corp. has not abandoned the rehabilitation work at the North Luzon Expressway. Angel is the MNTC's manager for external relations and marketing. Here's his unedited piece:

"The MNTC has not abandoned the project, nor has it postponed the rehabilitation program for three years.

"The financial closing in July 2001 for US$261 million limited recourse finance package with seven international banks and five multilateral financial institutions led by the Asian Development Bank, has moved the MNTC closer to issuing a construction notice to proceed (CNTP) to the Australian contractor, Leighton Contractors Asia Ltd. by the first quarter of 2002.

"The period of construction will take 24 months (two years) after which the MNTC, through an operation and maintenance company, takes over commercial operations of the toll road beginning year 2004 from the Philippine National Construction Corp., an equity partner under a joint venture agreement concluded in July 1995. First Philippine Infrastructure Development Corp., the infrastructure arm of the Lopez Group owns 64 percent of the MNTC.

"The reckoning period of Income Tax Holiday (ITH) has been moved to 2004.

"The MNTC is in receipt of an official communication from the management committee of the Board of Investments (BOI) stating that during its Oct. 16, 2001 meeting, it has granted the request of the MNTC for an amendment of the project timetable and movement of reckoning period for the income tax holiday (ITH) of Phase 1 of the North Luzon Tollway Project from 2001 to 2004 primarily because of the delay in the delivery of right-of-way acquisition by the government.

"The MNTC, meanwhile, is working to satisfy all condition precedents of the tenders to facilitate full-blast construction works at the North Luzon Expressway in time to deliver a world-class toll road by early 2004.

"With this, we hope to have clarified the matter. Thank you."

* * *

Thank you, too, Angel. At least the public has been reassured that everything's well with the rehabilitation work at North Luzon Expressway.

* * *

QUOTE ME. Using the right side when overtaking is suicide? Not at both the North and South Expressways.

MERCEDES-BENZ E 240

Enjoy luxury without interest

LUXURY car owners apparently go after the finest things in life, no matter the cost, because nobody can put a price on perfection. If an individual has worked hard to reach this certain level of success, one of the most ideal rewards is owning a Mercedes-Benz E-class. And now, you can enjoy the luxury of owning a Mercedes-Benz E 240 2.6-liter without the interest that goes with other financing plans—with a 50 percent down payment and 0 percent interest for 18 months which is currently available till Dec. 31, 2001.

The E240 model symbolizes groundbreaking design and technical innovation. It has features that keep it one step ahead of other cars in its category with a style that says "pure luxury" while maintaining the core values that characterize Mercedes-Benz safety, quality and durability. The chrome trim on the painted door handles, the leather-covered steering wheel and gearshift, and the 11-hole light alloy wheels are but some of the luxury appointments found in every E-class car that comes out of the assembly line.

At a price of P3.2 million, the E 240 comes "fully loaded" considering the standard equipment that come with the package. The current model has over 100 items of standard and

GLOBAL RECALL

Local Nissan Sentra models not included

FOLLOWING the release of information regarding a global recall initiative by its mother company in Japan, Nissan Motor Philippines Inc., manufacturer of Nissan cars in the country, announced today that Nissan's global recall does not include Nissan cars sold in the Philippines.

The NMPI clarified that while one of the models mentioned in Friday's announcement was the Sentra or Sunny model, the local Nissan models did not make use of the affected part that was the reason for the recall. Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. had already implemented the countermeasure for the problem prior to the model's launch in the Philippines. Therefore the affected part, the crankshaft and camshaft position sensor, was not used in the locally produced Nissan Sentra Exalta.

"We clarified the source of the problem, and we are glad to reassure the public that our Nissan Sentra Exalta does not make use of the said part," said Tonette Lee, product and marketing manager for the NMPI. "North American, Japanese and European versions of the model are those affected. The countermeasure for the problem was implemented in July 2000. The QG engines used in the Philippine model were built after October 2000, and therefore no longer contain the said part.

Lee clarified that there is no possibility that the problem, which can cause engine stalling as a worst case scenario, could crop up in the Philippine model, "unless a customer imported an affected unit directly from one of the affected countries."

The NMPI assured its customers that it remains ready to serve its customers through its dealer network.

Drive away with your new Civic or CR-V this Xmas

THIS Christmas, Honda Cars Philippines Inc. offers Civic and CR-V buyers a holiday treat with the "Holiday Drive-Aways" promo. Civic VTi-A/T/VTi-S buyers get a great holiday treat with a Full Comprehensive Motorcar Insurance for the first year, absolutely free. On the other hand, buyers of the Civic 1.5 LXi MT/AT and Civic VTi MIT get a 50 percent discount on Full Comprehensive Motorcar Insurance for the first year. Meanwhile, the CR-V comes with a Video CD Entertainment System and a Hard Spare Tire Cover, all for free!

With this promo, Honda gives customers more value for their money with its two best sellers—the Civic and the CR-V. Japan's 2001 Car of the Year, the new Civic VTEC 3 boasts of an innovative design with its spacious flat rear cabin floor, advanced safety features and a technologically advanced engine that balances powerful and superior performance with fuel efficiency. The CR-V has the unique Real Time 4WD system and a 4-wheel double wishbone suspension that provide great stability and comfort for a smooth drive and ride.

The Civic is available in 1.5 LXi MT/AT, 1.6 VTi, MT/AT and 1.6 VTi-S (A/T) variants in colors taffeta white, satin silver, milano red, iced teal pearl, dark emerald green, titanium metallic and night hawk b!ack (available in 1.6 VTi-S only). For the CRV, only standard colors taffeta white, ruby red, cypress green metallic and heathermist silver are available for the promo.

The ongoing promo will run until Dec. 25 only.

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			12 mos.	0.00%	32,209
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Crosswind Variant	SRP	20% D/P	24 mos.	36 mos.	50% D/P	36 mos.	60 mos.
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XTO M/T Special Edition	759,000	127,800	30,474	21,834	379,500	12,809	9,317
XTO A/T	773,000	106,660	31,036	22,237	386,500	12,222	8,891
XTO M/T	733,000	108,600	29,430	21,086	366,500	11,853	8,621
XT M/T	670,000	114,000	26,901	19,274	335,000	11,349	8,255

•All plans are subject to bank approval. •Two-tone is dealer option. •SRP not inclusive of shipping and handling costs.

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Aggressive driving observed among metro college students

(First of two parts)

BY ISAGANI F. YUZON, DPA, UP
Contributor

ILLUSTRATION:ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

DRIVING among college students in Metro Manila is gradually becoming a norm—a way of life. More and more students have taken to the streets as drivers as soon as they start college education. Some may have formal behind-the-wheel driver training, that is in a driving school but a driver's license holder such as a father, an elder brother or uncle may have trained most. Novice drivers run the greatest risk of committing traffic violations and engaging in crash accidents because not only of the lack of proper driver education but also of the inherent nature of being young, less matured and less experienced.

More traffic in Metro Manila roads than ever before is creating considerable congestion in urban population centers partly due to the ever-growing college students who have taken to the roads. The government is working to build new thoroughfares to relieve the congestion, but land and money are major hurdles. Land acquisition and construction costs are skyrocketing.

Unsafe driving milieu

Recently, a traffic safety behavior known as aggressive driving has caught media attention. The practice of driving aggressively is not new, but now it seems more widespread and even acceptable in our fast-paced society of today. It has gained considerable media attention nationally when several aggressive driving incidents went beyond traffic violations and erupted into criminal acts. Some people have been assaulted either with a motor vehicle or other weapon, and still others have died.

Aggressive drivers create an unsafe driving environment through their inconsiderate, self-centered driving habits. Drivers often commit multiple violations, including driving over the speed limit, following too closely, erratic or unsafe lane changes, improperly signaling lane changes and failure to obey traffic lights. Because of these driving behaviors, hundreds of deaths and injuries occur each year, and contribute to the growing problems of hazardous traffic conditions and those criminal acts related to aggressive driving.

Attempts to solve problem

Professionals from various disciplines have begun working to find the answer to this increasing problem. Some psychologists and psychiatrists are approaching the issue from an emotional perspective, studying anger control and stress reduction techniques. A number of law enforcement agencies have launched a variety of operations to target enforcement of traffic laws commonly associated with aggressive driving. In conjunction with the enforcement, they are conducting media campaign on increasing awareness and educating the motoring public about aggressive driving and basic traffic laws.

During the last Congress, Rep. Raul M. Gonzalez, in recognition of the said situation filed House Bill 11911 titled "An Act Making Road Rage and Aggravating Circumstance, Amending for the Purpose the Revised Penal Code, as Amended." The explanatory note of the bill reads that "while it is true that oftentimes unfavorable conditions on the road stimulate shortness of tempers and raise blood pressures, it is nevertheless unjustifiable to commit acts of violence just to assuage one's injured feelings resulting from perceived insults received from fellow motorists, most especially when such infractions may have been inadvertent and unintended. Thus, it is necessary to give the people an additional deterrent to encourage them to take a short pause and count to 10, so to speak, to hold their tempers and to avoid the violent consequences."

Profile of student drivers

Against this background, this writer conducted a research study to determine the profile of student drivers who usually get involved in some forms of aggressive driving behavior. It was also an attempt to validate Michael Geber's theory that age and sex are both related to driving performance.

In past studies, both young and male consistently displayed higher total traffic accident and conviction rates than drivers who were older and female. These studies also found out that the primary causes of traffic accidents differed for younger and older drivers.

The decline in unsafe driving as age increases is reflected in the perceived dangerousness of these aggressive driving actions, according to a study conducted by John Boyle and company in validating Geber's theory. In one example, using a 5-point scale where 1 = Extremely Safe and 5 = Extremely Dangerous when rating an hour over the speed limit on two-lane rural roads, the average rating of dangerousness of that act increases from 3.4 for drivers aged 16-20, to 3.5 for the 21-24 and 25-34 age group, to 3.7 for 35- to 44-year-old drivers, to 3.8 for the 45- to 54-year-old bracket, to 4.0 for the 55-64 age group, to 4.2 for drivers aged 65 and above. Most strikingly, is that the 16-20 age group rated nearly every aggressive driving behavior as less dangerous than older drivers. For instance, of the 22 behaviors examined, the 16- to 20-year-old bracket rated 17 of these as less dangerous than any other age group. Hence, it appears that as drivers age, there is an ongoing reevaluation of the dangerousness of these driving actions.

Alan Black, another scholar of traffic management, reinforced Boyle's observation when he stated that youthful drivers were more prone to motor vehicle crash compared to other age groups. And one factor that he identified was the teenagers' propensity to engage in risk-taking behaviors.

Implications

With this premise in mind, the study attempted to establish the implications of the influx of young drivers in Metro Manila streets, their attitudes toward driving, traffic laws, rules and regulations, their driving performance and its implications to urban traffic management.

The study was conducted in three of the four leading universities in the Philippines and involved a sample size of 665 respondents, 380 and 285 of which were undergraduate and graduate students, respectively, who were asked to answer a pretested questionnaire. Based on the statistical treatment of the data gathered, it was established that those who are likely to engage in aggressive driving actions are young, male undergraduate students regardless of the manner by which they learned how to drive and the length of their driving experience.

Good and bad points of a motor show

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

AS you read this, the nine-day Singapore Auto Salon (SAS) 2001 extravaganza is on its sixth day at Southeast Asia's biggest exhibition center, the S$220-million, 85,000-square-meter, government-owned Singapore Expo.

More than an annual motor show, the SAS is billed as the launching pad for specialty and recreational vehicles to the Southeast Asian and South Asian markets. The event, according to the SAS website, will not only display supercars, exotic sports cars, sport utility vehicles, multipurpose vehicles and grand touring models from Europe, the United States and Asia, it will also provide a venue and cross-industry melting pot for manufacturers, distributors and service providers in the automotive industry who are introducing new models to potential buyers. The organizers, PSA Exhibitions Pte. Ltd. and SAS Exhibitions Pte. Ltd., claim that the first SAS held last year attracted 100,000 visitors from 20 countries.

In one aspect, SAS 2001 is more spectacular than the Tokyo Motor Show because it will hold raffle draws with two fabulous dream cars as the top prizes. In one draw, the top prize is—hold your breath—a Ferrari Testarossa. And in a charity jackpot supporting the Breast Cancer Foundation, a new Lotus Elise is up for grabs. The SAS Giveaway Grand Draw offers a less exciting top prize, a Skoda Fabia subcompact. The Ferrari and Lotus will surely lure crowds to SAS 2001, although no information is given on how much a raffle ticket costs. Tickets to SAS 2001 cost S$10 each for adults, S$6 for children below 1.2 meters in height.

The list of cars to be exhibited at SAS 2001 reads like a car lover's fantasy as it includes the Jaguar XJR, Ferrari 550, Ferrari Barchetta, Lamborghini Murcielago, Lamborghini Diablo, Maserati Spyder, new Lotus Elise, Lotus Exige, Aston Martin Vantage, Lorinser new SLK and SL, Alfa Romeo 156, Morgan Plus 8, Fiat Stilo and the Ferrarri, Petronas, Arrows F1 cars. The only Japanese exhibitor is Mitsubishi/Ralli Art and there are no US exhibitors, unless you consider Jaguar and Aston Martin American since they are part of Ford's Premier Automotive Group.

Which makes you wonder: how come the car manufacturing giants of Japan and Detroit and BMW and Mercedes-Benz are not participating in SAS 2001, despite the fabulous raffle prizes and exotic car exhibit guaranteed to draw crowds? Despite the well-planned preevent promotional road shows and multimedia advertising campaign, the free meal coupons and freebies given to every admission ticket buyer, the Michael Schumacher-endorsed merchandise auction and the daily Citroen stunt driving show? Is it because this is only the second time the SAS is being held?

Or are the major car manufacturers staying away because the organizers of SAS 2001 trivialized and cheapened the whole thing by adding a beauty contest, "Miss Racequeen International," to the program, plus a Racequeen Calendar shoot, a "Guess the Winner" contest and a Racequeen signing of posters? The inclusion of this totally irrelevant agenda in a motor show's program of on-site events may create the desired festive mood, but it also sends the wrong signals. It implies that the organizers have little faith in the drawing power of their car show and they aren't that seriously focused on the automotive industry. Hey, aren't the raffling off of a Ferrari and a Lotus and the display of dream cars not enough to attract visitors? Sure, the Tokyo Motor Show also features scantily clad young women posing beside the cars on exhibit, but the Japan Motor Industrial Federation Inc. never stooped to the frivolity of holding a beauty contest at the motor show's venue.

The organizers of Singapore Auto Salon should be lauded for taking the initiative to create an annual regional happening where players in the automotive industry and ancillary businesses cannot only promote their new products, but also network and launch or expand their presence in Southeast Asia. Local events organizers can learn from SAS in the way of planning promotional roadshows and other marketing events. But please, forget the beauty contest.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Thanks for parking so close... Next time, leave a can opener so I can get my car out!

* * *

E-mail comments to aida_sevilla@pacific.net.ph

Ford . . .

(From page B14)

Ranger 4x4 SVT also has all-power amenities including power door locks, power windows and power door mirrors. The pickup is covered by a 2-year 50,000-km warranty.

Adding to its sporty look, the 2002 Ford Ranger 4x4 SVT rolls on 235/75R 15" chrome-plated alloy wheels and illuminated side stepboards that can be found on both driver and passenger side. A snorkel is also installed on the driver side apart from color-keyed radiator grille, single in-dash compact disc player and a styling bar with third brake lamp.

Exclusive look

To give Pinatubo II edition owners that exclusive look, the 2002 Ford Ranger 4x4 SVT will have unique SVT badges, Pinatubo decals and pin-stripe stickers. To make the tough trek both a luxurious and comfortable journey, the Pinatubo II Edition is equipped with combined black and blue leather seats, leather wrapped 4-spoke steering wheel and gear-shift boot.

The 2002 Ford Ranger SVT 4x4 is currently priced at P980,000.

The Ford Ranger SVT 4x4 and other Ranger variants are locally assembled at the Ford Motor Co. Philippines plant facility at Sta. Rosa, Laguna. They are available at authorized dealerships nationwide: Ford Alabang, Ford Balintawak, Ford Edsa, Ford Libis, Ford Makati, Ford Quezon Avenue; and in the provinces Ford Cebu, Ford Cabanatuan, Ford Davao and Ford Pampanga.

GRAND FEATURES. GRAND CHOICES.*
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Power mode selector switch
Located to the left of the gear selector, this switch allows the driver to shift in either the "P" or the "N" mode. In the "P" mode, the transmission will delay its shift points. This allows the vehicle to rev higher, and downshift quicker when the accelerator is depressed. Under "N", the transmission will shift at the regular shift points, usually about 3,000 rpm, depending on the model. This setting maximizes fuel economy.

Micron air filter
Filters out dust, dirt, and pollen from the ventillation system, helping keep the cabin air fresh.

Direct Ignition system
The Suzuki 2.5 liter V6, 2.0 liter 4-cylinder engines feature coil over plug technology, which reduces maintenace costs by eliminating the need for a distributor cap and ignition wires. Direct ignition helps increase engine efficiency and performance.

Strut tower brace
A thick steel bar over the engine acts as a body stiffener by increasing torsional rigidity and reducing body flex.

Shift-on-the fly four-wheel Drive
A shift-on-the-fly system with two speed transfer case allows drivers to shift between 2wd high and 4wd high at any speed - up to 60 mph while travelling in a straight line. There is no need to stop, reverse, or lock hubs.

Multi-reflector headlamps
Besides being visually appealing, these headlamps produce a cleaner, more controlled beam for better night vision.

Liquid filled motor mounts
Hydraulically tuned to help cancel the noise and vibrations produced by the engine, these motor mounts help ensure a quieter cabin.

Chassis to body mounts.
Numerous energy absorbing rubber chassis to body mounts are placed on top of the ladder box frame, and below the body. They help keep road noise and vibration out of the passenger cabin, ensuring a quiet, smooth ride.

Full frame with crumple zones
The full ladder frame with boxed rails is made of high tensile steel, and features seven cross-members for additional support and rigidity. This gives the entire Vitara line a strong foundation for vehicle.

Two-speed tranfer case
Allows the driver to select 4wd low, used for serious off road driving, such as ascending or descending steep hills, sand, or mud.

Timing chain
The Suzuki 2.5 liter V6, 2.0 liter 4-cylinder engines are designed with dual overhead cams and a two-stage timing chain for better performance. The timing chain, developed from Suzuki motorcycle technology, is self lubricating, self adjusting, and requires no maintenance.

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MOTORING

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

Ford unveils latest Ranger

2002 Ford Ranger

BY CHARLES E. BUBAN

A NEW Ford Ranger has arrived in time for the yuletide season. The new Ford Ranger SVT is a powerful 4x4 pickup that can go just about anywhere. Powered by a 2.5L intercooled turbo diesel engine, it is a sure workhorse boasting a maximum 1,170-kg payload.

Initially introduced as the Ford Ranger SVT Pinatubo Edition last March, the 2002 Ford Ranger 4x4 SVT has been groomed and geared to give unprecedented comfort and uncompromising convenience to the adventurous souls.

With additions like the Limited Slip Differential, the 2002 Ford Ranger 4x4 SVT remains firm even on extreme weather or severe road conditions that require extra power to overcome off-road obstacles. The pickup's double cab configuration with 5-speed manual transmission comes complete with tow hooks, bullbars, skid plates, body side protection moldings and rear step bumper with tow hitch.

The 2002 Ford Ranger 4x4 SVT also comes with a new box-type design that did away with roperails and loadrest giving it a clean bedliner look. In its place are inner tie-down hooks and a bedliner added to its rugged look.

Safety features

For peace of mind, the pickup also comes equipped with dual airbags for both driver and front passenger that are now standard for all Ranger 4x4 models. This is supplemented with side-impact bars in all four doors.

Another standard feature is the pickup's remote keyless entry with alarm system that acts as a theft deterrent as well. The 2002 Ford

FORD/P.B13

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- A total of 6-airbags and sidebags.
- Windowbags for front & outer rear-seat passengers.
- Power windows with one-touch control.
- Newly designed ergonomics for the center console with more standard features.
- Enlarged tank capacity from 70 to 83 liters.
- 17-inch Magwheels.
- Full memory seats including exterior mirror memory.
- 2.7 - Liter Common Rail Direct Injection.
- Diesel Engine with Turbo Intercooler.
- 5-Speed Automatic with One-Touch Tippshift Feature & Cruise Control.

Photo may vary from actual unit.

The New M-Class 2002 is truly a versatile vehicle that offers both off-road capability and qualities of a top-class saloon.

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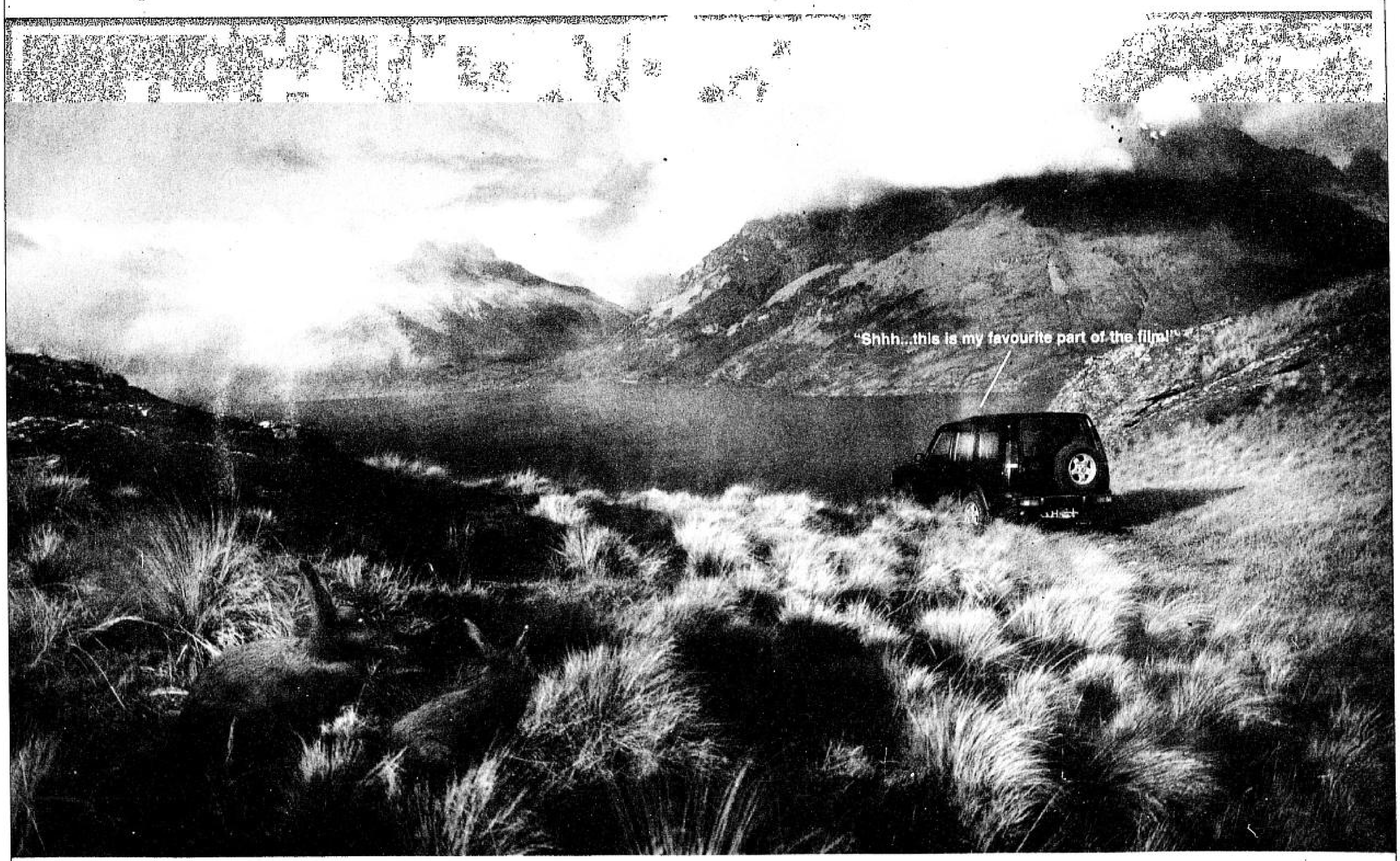

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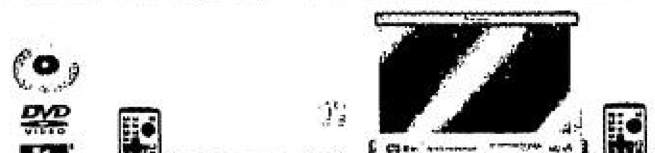

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LIFESTYLE Tastes

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

NORTH Park Special Toasted Chow Mien noodles

Raphael and Gabriel Soong are in charge at North Park and, with their dad watching over them, how can they go wrong?

Archangels of noodles

IN GOOD TASTE

Doreen G. Fernandez

COMFORT bowls of *lugaw*/ congee, noodles and broth and perhaps wontons, vegetables, chicken, fish and more, are the main offerings of the North Park restaurant. These are real slow food, although served as fast as you wish: the noodles are homemade, the broths are carefully enriched with food combinations, and the bowls embellished with vegetables sourced in local markets, dumplings, *bicho-bicho*. The congee is whisked fine as velvet, and carefully flavored with fish, chicken, crystal prawns, shiitake mushrooms, pork balls, chicken balls, *lapu-lapu* and/or *mameng* fillet. It is gentle and soothing, our traditional food for the ailing, but also multilevel, multiflavored comfort.

The brothers Soong, Raphael and Gabriel, I call the archangels of noodles in this town. When they first opened North Park on Wilson Street in San Juan, it was an immediate success, and they give credit to their father David for having taught them all about egg noodles Hong Kong style; whole wheat, herb or E-fu noodles; Empress Hair and flat Shanghai and Canton-style noodles. Each of these can be had in soup, dry, or in special signature dishes like North Park Special Toast Noodles and North Park Chow Mein (*pancit guisado*).

Noodles and *lugaw* are healthful food; nutritionist Sanirose Orbeta prescribes them for high-carbohydrate, low-protein, low-fat diets. If you have these noodles delivered, they come separately: noodles and condiments, a bag of hot, nutritious broth, and sprinkle- or add-on items like a raw egg, *bicho-bicho* and chopped green onions.

Resurrected

Some may remember that one day the Wilson North Park restaurant burned down, along with some cars parked right in front. For a while I fantasized about those cars—what story they could tell. Why did some owners never come forward and tow them away or at least claim them? What deep secrets lay in those metal carcasses?

But North Park resurrected like a phoenix a few doors away—bigger and better (with parking in the back). It eventually developed into a chain in Banawe, QC; on Makati Avenue; and most recently in Alabang. So here is the constellation of contact numbers (they deliver): Makati 896-3475, 896-3471; Wilson 725-9439, 721-2759; Banawe 711-7648, 413-7063; Alabang (1/F Alabang Town Center, Cinema Entrance) 850-8632, 772-5819.

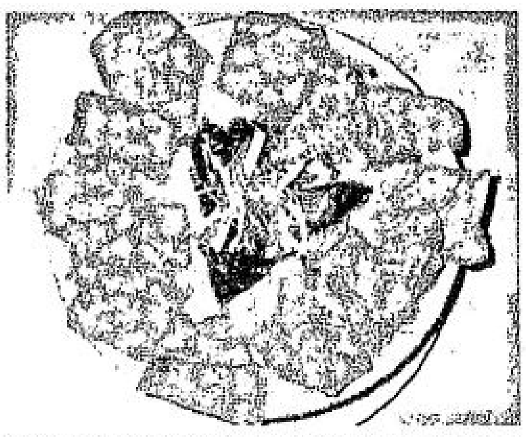
Raphael, Gabriel and their operation managers Fermin Clarin and Bong Velasco have schedules that assure that every branch is visited daily. On weekends, their mother Estela Soong is on hand to help and to talk to customers—and sometimes to clear tables when people are waiting. Every day their father David Soong buys all the fresh, high-quality vegetables from his longtime *suki* in Divisoria for the central commissary that supplies all the restaurants, which run almost daily full houses.

Next door

This month, a new, smaller restaurant to be called North Park Next Door will open on Makati Avenue, to be devoted to old favorites and some new specialties. Otherwise all four North Parks have identical multi-item menus, and have not been known to disappoint anyone, office girl or executive. I have taken there a famous American anthropologist and his wife, an American drama director, businessmen and academics, old friends and family, Jesuit seminarians, and all have been charmed and satisfied.

Here are some dishes our family particularly likes: Pinsec Frito, the fried, stuffed wonton *comida* China staple that most modern Chinese restaurants no longer offer; white chicken; soup with aniseed beef tendon (*litid*); salted fish with chicken fried rice; three kinds mushroom with broccoli in oyster sauce; roast Peking duck; pork chicken liver sausage; fried bread with cream dip (echoes of childhood in the toffee-like *condensada*) and Gabi Butchi. And especially the fresh lemonade, one of the most refreshing drinks this side of Paradise (although I would not scorn the cold Chrysanthemum Juice or the fresh fruit shakes).

ARCHANGELS/ p.C3



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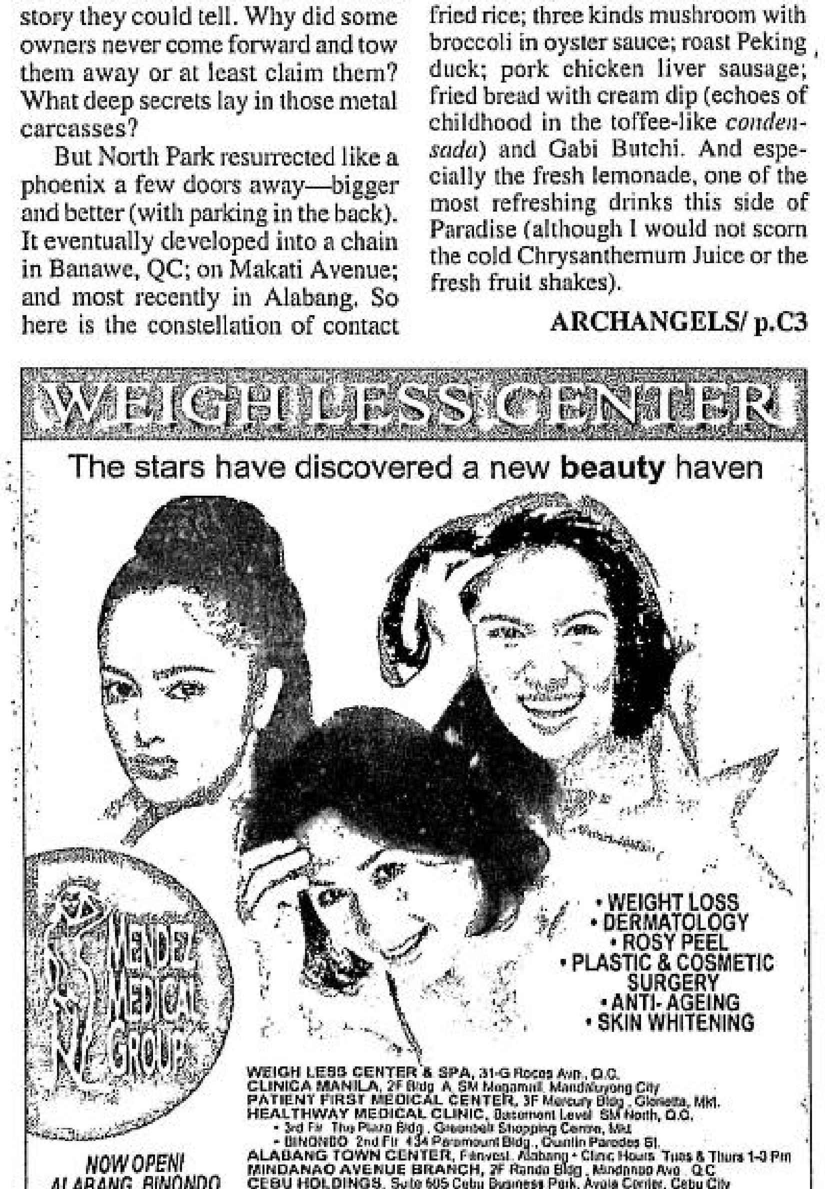

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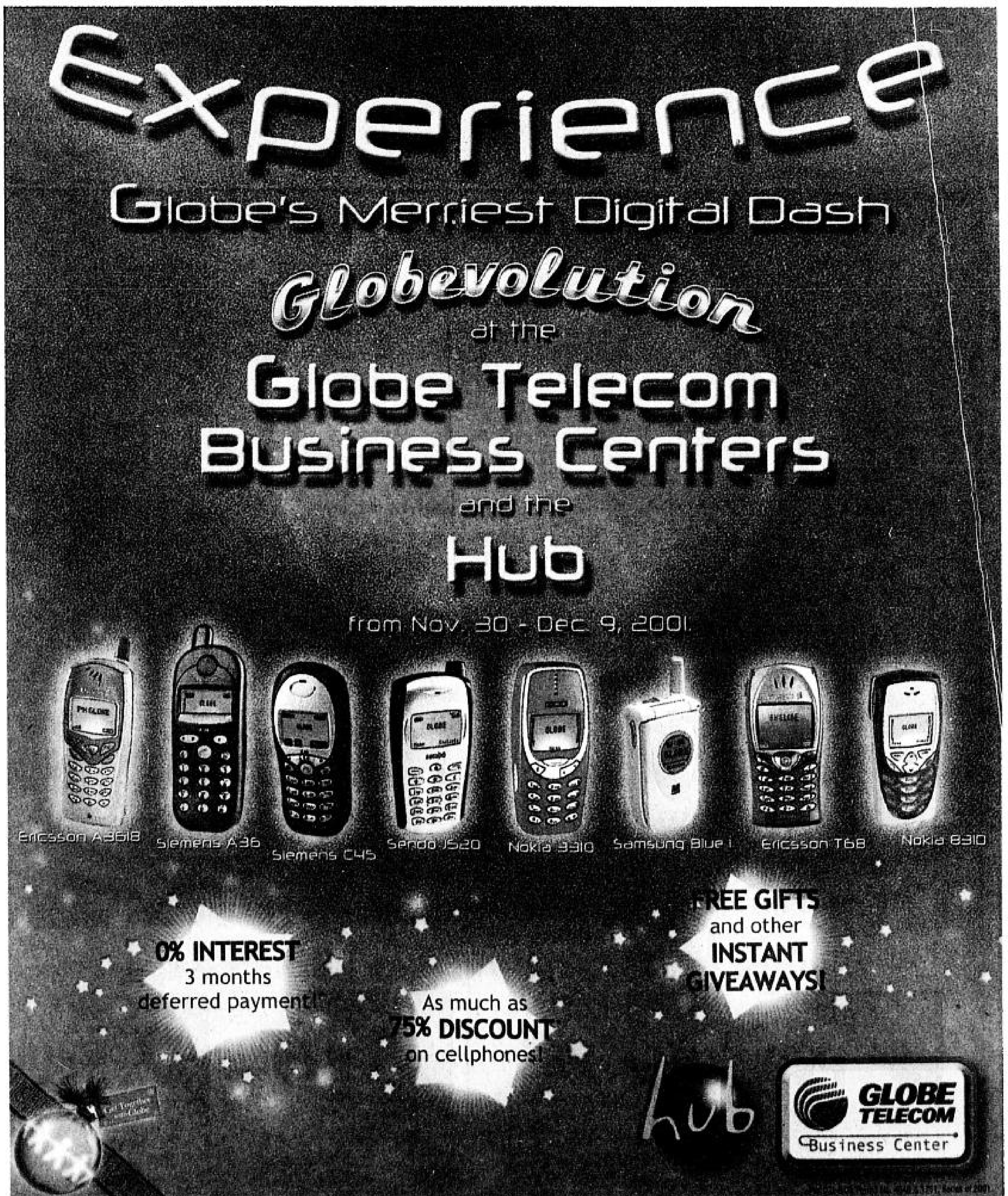

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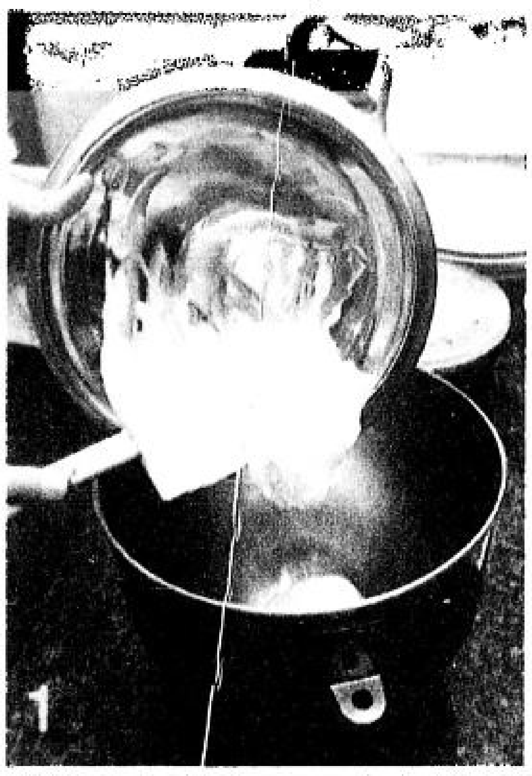
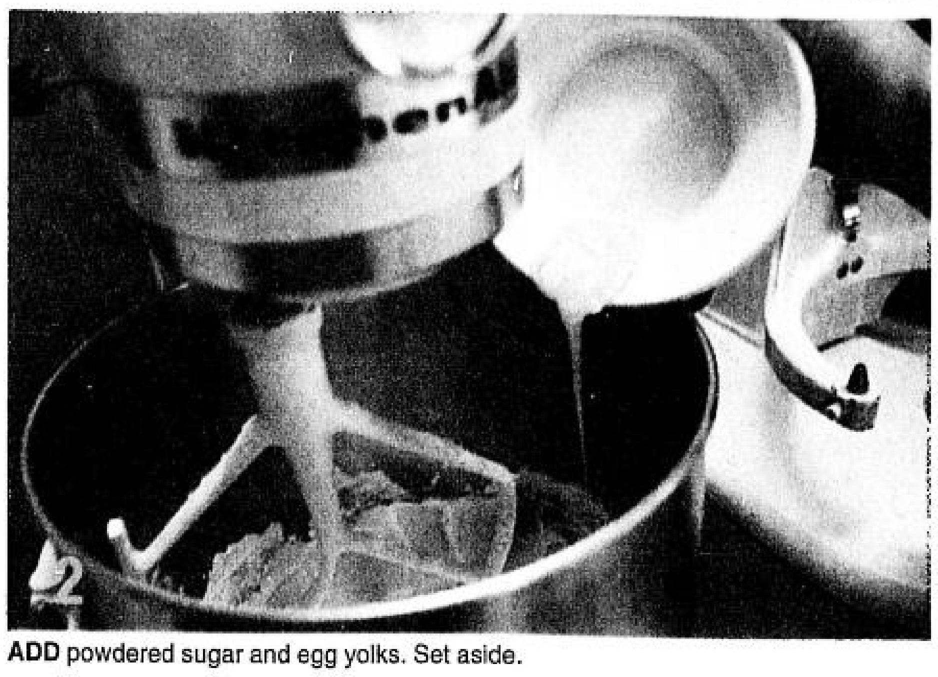
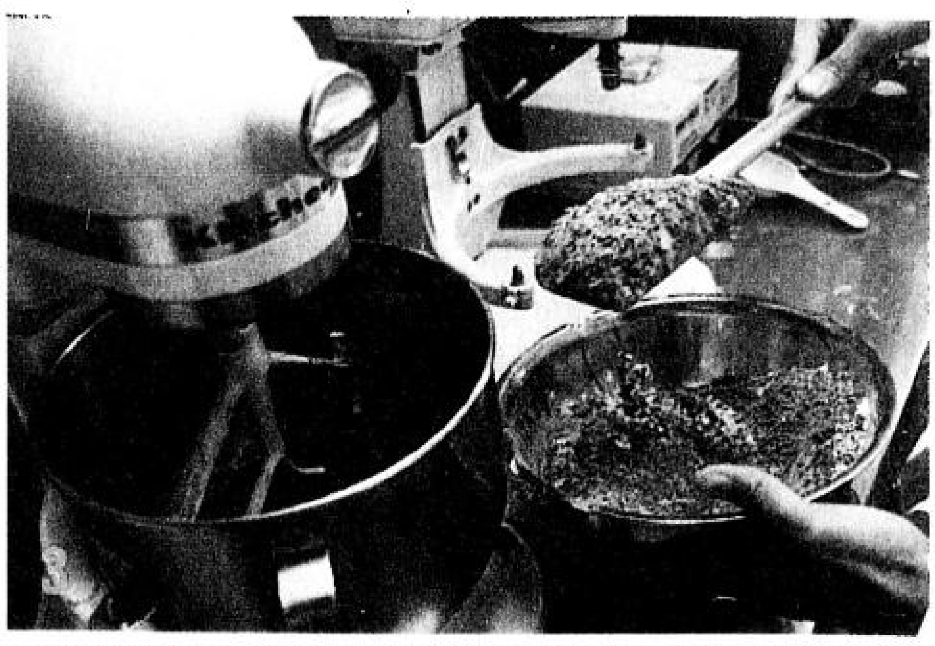


USING an electric mixer, cream the butter.



ADD powdered sugar and egg yolks. Set aside.



IN ANOTHER bowl, mix together cocoa powder, flour and nuts. Then, add it to the egg mixture. Add vanilla. Knead well until smooth. Chill for one hour or until firm.

Say 'I do' to these easy-to-bake cookies

CHOCOLATE Wedding Cookies, fast and easy snack

By Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Mike Alquinto

STEP-BY-STEP

IF your holiday cookie repertoire needs some sprucing up, then roll up your sleeves and have a ball with these quick-to-do Chocolate Wedding Cookies. These cookies are patterned after the popular Mexican Wedding Cookies, which were served during special weddings in Mexico in the olden times.

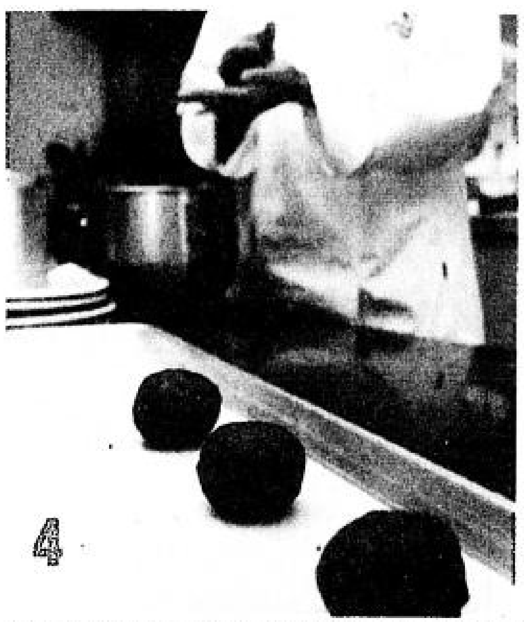
Typically, cookies are small and delicate with rich buttery dough and yummy flavors. With the Chocolate Wedding Cookies, they are rolled into a small ball and have subtly sweet flavor and smooth texture. They are blended with freshly chopped nuts, and for extra flavor, infused with vanilla.

Chef Pixie Sevilla of Forget Me Not (tel. 723-2776) suggests that these delicious nibbles be served on a bright, handsome platter for added appeal with freshly brewed coffee or hot milk on the side.

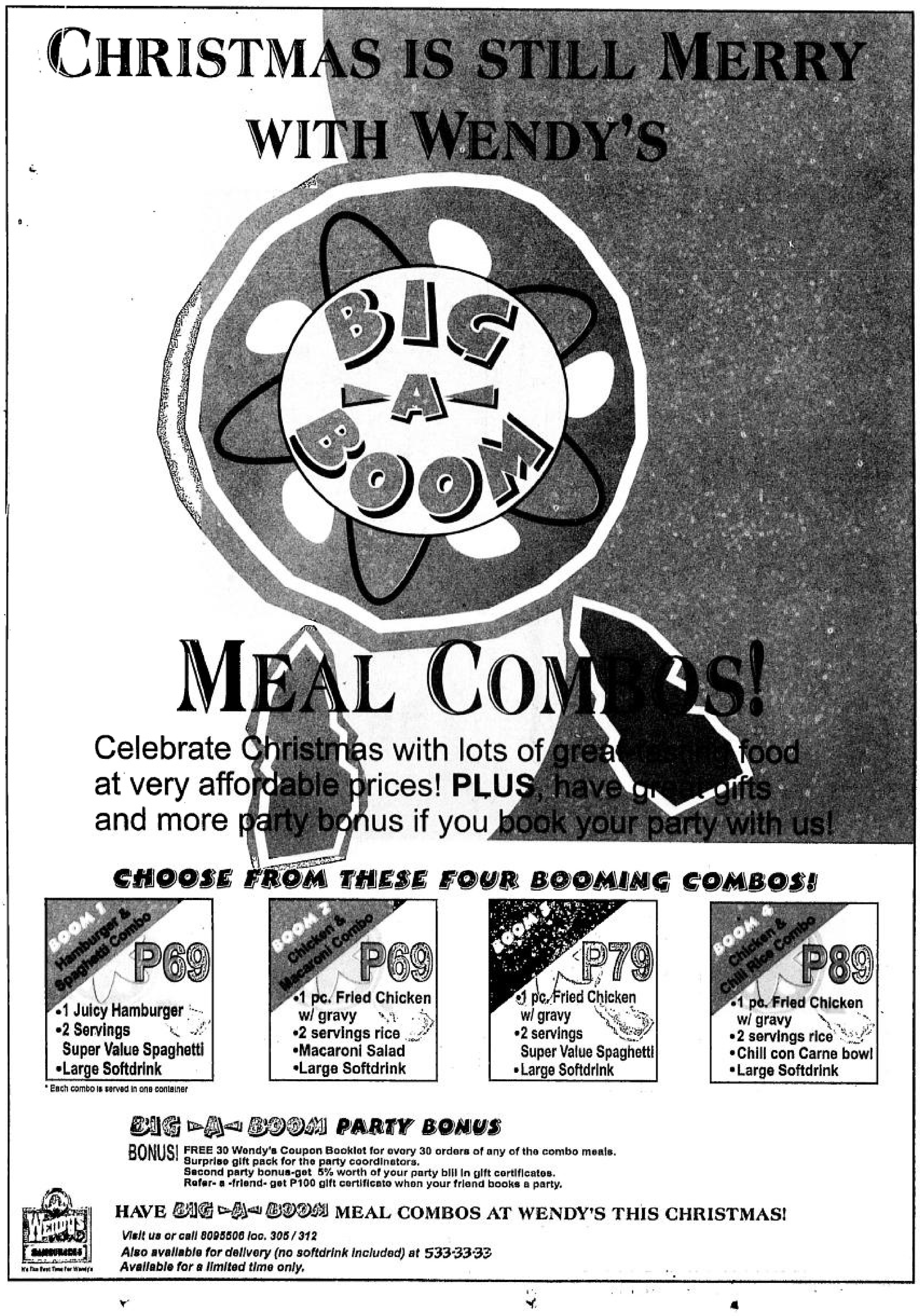
Chocolate lovers will want to try these cookies which add to this season of indulgence and good cheer. A helpful hint for first-timers: the cookie dough can be frozen and baked several weeks later. Yield: 10-15 cookies

Ingredients:
2 c butter
1¼ c powdered sugar
2 egg yolks
3 c flour
1½ c cocoa powder
3 tbsp vanilla
2 c chopped nuts

E-mail the author at vbaga@-inquirer.com.ph



SHAPE the dough into a small ball or into crescents. Bake in an ungreased baking sheet in 320°F for 20 minutes or until slightly brown. When done, gently roll warm cookies in powdered sugar. Let cool.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Chicken all dressed up for the holidays

IT wasn't quite the holiday season yet but that afternoon, the Julius Maggi Kitchen smelled and felt like Christmas. A festive mood greeted the audience as carols floated in the air. The kitchen, as usual, was filled with ingredients for the day's cooking demonstration, but the ambience was different. Pastries wrapped in colorful foil and decorated in fancy ribbons were displayed in the working area.

The early Christmas demonstration by Dorothy Ferreria was just one of the many cooking events held at the Julius Maggi Kitchen. Below is a recipe the kitchen shares for the holidays. For more information on upcoming sessions, call Nestlé Consumer Services at 898-0061.

Chicken Galantine

This recipe takes a lot of hard work, but it's definitely one of the best Christmas recipes you can prepare on Christmas Eve! If you want something ultra-special on your buffet table this Christmas that's different from the fare of past years, you can make your own Chicken Galantine. Ferreria's recipe is a sure hit for your Noche Buena banquet.

1 whole chicken, approximately 1.3 to 1.5 kg, deboned
For the forcemeat:
2 tbsp olive oil
2 tbsp butter
1 tbsp minced garlic
1 c chopped onions
½ c sliced button mushrooms
½ tsp dried thyme leaves
½ tsp oregano
½ tsp basil
½ tsp marjoram
1 pc Maggi Chicken Broth Cube
¼ c dark rum or cherry brandy
½ kg lean ground pork and chicken meat, chopped coarsely
2 pcs eggs
½ c parsley
¼ tsp ground white pepper
1½ fine salt
1 tbsp Maggi Savor, Garlic flavor
½ c chopped carrots
¼ c frozen green peas
1 c cubed cheddar cheese
½ c raisins
1/3 c regular breadcrumbs
200 g *chorizo de* Bilbao or *longganiza* Española, chopped coarsely
½ c walnuts or peeled chestnuts
1 tsp accord binder (a white powdery food additive that makes fillings and *embotido*-type recipes compact and not easy to break)
For the chicken stock:
1 pc Maggi Chicken Broth Cube
Chicken bones
Water to cover the assembled galantine

- Cut the deboned chicken in half vertically. Carefully separate the chicken meat from the chicken skin, using a boning knife. Cut off the wing tips and the ends of the drumstick. Scrape off as much meat as possible. You will end up with only the chicken skin. Coarsely chop the remaining chicken meat. Use a food processor for this purpose if desired.
- In a large frying pan, heat up the olive oil and butter. Sauté the garlic and onions until the onions are transparent. Then add the mushrooms, the spices and the broth cube. Sauté until fragrant. Pour in the rum or brandy and simmer for 5 minutes. Allow to cool for 10 minutes.
- In a large mixing bowl, combine the remaining ingredients for the forcemeat. As soon as the mushroom mixture is cool to touch, add it to the forcemeat mixture and mix well. Add the binder to the mixture and mix well.
- Flatten the chicken skin on a piece of cheesecloth or diaper with the outer skin facing down. Pull the drumstick and the wing skin toward the inner skin. The skin should form a rectangle.
- Transfer the forcemeat to the center of the chicken skin. Form into a large rectangular loaf.
- Bring the skin of the chicken (top and bottom parts) toward the center, covering a large portion of the filling. Wrap carefully with a piece of cheesecloth and twist both ends to create a giant hotdog. Secure both ends with kitchen strings. Then tie the whole galantine at 1-inch intervals.
- To prepare the stock, pour the ingredients needed for the stock into a large stockpot. Add the assembled galantine and add enough water to cover completely. Allow to boil on a high fire. Lower the flame and allow to simmer for 1½ hours.
- Remove the galantine from the cooking liquid. Transfer to jellyroll pan. Allow to cool at room temperature for 1 hour. Keep refrigerated overnight with about 2 kg of weight over it (e.g. a bag of sugar) to remove excess liquid. This will ensure that the galantine will become solid. Slice into ½-inch portions and serve with the desired sauce. The cooked galatine will keep in the refrigerator for 1 week.
- For a simple sauce, mix together 1 c tomato catsup and 1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce. As an option, prepare gravy using 2 tbsp butter, 2 tbsp flour and 1 small can of Nestlé Cream and 1 c drippings from pressing the galantine. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Archangels of noodles

(From page C1)

When I was ill in the hospital, tube-fed and quite uninterested in food (oops, I thought; there goes my food column), first food I had any desire to order was North Park congee. I later called Raphael and thanked him for reawakening my taste buds for future pleasures.

All North Parks are not large, but all are busy and full, high quality and well maintained (Customer Care Hotline 714-1162; e-mail customer_care@northpark.com.ph.

They have, you see, noodle archangels in charge and on high, and a father to watch over them as well.

NORTH Park Makati

Holiday postscript

Consider giving *tinapa* for breakfasts with tomatoes and salted eggs, or just tomatoes; or for making into *tinapa* fried rice. And although most know *tinapang* Salinas from Cavite, consider getting *tinapang* Tarlac. On your way to Capas, or Tarlac City, and especially Hacienda Luisita to visit the wonderful new Ninoy Aquino Museum, you will find them in round newspaper-wrapped containers at roadside stalls. Have the *tinderas* open the packages, so you can see the variety—*cabasi*, *galunggong* large and small, what is locally called *salmon* (large and fleshy) and even small *sap-sap* and *tamban*. They come from Barrio Talaga, and they're good.

New, trendy food gifts come from Island Tropica, made in Hacienda Rosalia, San Antonio, Ormoc City, Leyte, and trendily packaged by graphic designer Jopie Badoy in Manila. Seasonings like Cajun Chicken Rub, Herbs de Provence and Singapore Seafood Curry Powder come in tins, accompanied by recipes; Bagoong and Spiced Coconut Vinegar in bottles, all with funny faces on them. Pink Guava Jelly is absolutely natural, with no chemicals. A bamboo toast rack is laden with teas: Fruit Blend, Orange Cinnamon Spice and Camomile. Mexican Style Cocoa Tablets (*tablea*) are pure cocoa flavored with cinnamon; all natural with no additives. (Call Leyte (053) 561-0789; Makati (632) 831-0584; QC (632) 712-2430; mobiles (0919) 333-0802, (0917) 920-948; or e-mail i-tropic@pacific.net.ph or jopieb@yahoo.com.)

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30 YEARS OF PEDIATRICA

IT'S PEARLS FOR PEDIATRICA!

PEDIATRICA, the pediatric specialist and a division of United Laboratories, celebrates its Pearl Anniversary today, December 6, 2001. Activities for the day include a series of visits to Bantay Bata, the Philippine General Hospital, the National Children's Hospital and other charitable institutions nationwide. A thanksgiving mass is also scheduled to be held in Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Valle Verde V, Pasig City.

With the theme "30 Years of PEDIATRICA: For Our Children, For Our Future", the division commemorates 30 fruitful years of providing pharmaceutical and healthcare products of the highest quality and within the reach of every family so the child may live in total health.

The division had its humble beginnings in 1971 with a staff of only 12 field personnel marketing their first product, Naprex. Since then, PEDIATRICA has grown with more than 100 dedicated field and office staff marketing 17 product lines and 41 product formats.

FOR OUR CHILDREN. FOR OUR FUTURE.

In its 30 years of existence, PEDIATRICA has seen its share of top-caliber leaders steering the division to enormous success. Dr. Jose Laurente, Mr. Roger Ferreria, Dr. Amadeo Constantino, Dr. Salvador Franco, and present general manager Mr. Chet de Guia have all made valuable contributions to the division – from launching and marketing new products to creating strong partnerships with doctors. Today, PEDIATRICA offers a comprehensive line of quality products exclusively formulated to cover as many pediatric diseases or conditions as possible. It has antibacterial, vitamins, antispasmodic, mucolytic, decongestant, analgesic-antipyretic, and even antituberculosis preparations.

The present leaders of PEDIATRICA are confident that as they celebrate their Pearl Anniversary, the division will continue to fulfill their mission of becoming the preferred partner for the total health of the Filipino child.

PEDIATRICA
30
YEARS
1971-2001

PEDIATRICA, INC.
THE PEDIATRIC SPECIALIST

MESSAGES

MY WARMEST greetings to the men and women of Pediatrica Inc. as you celebrate your pearl anniversary on Dec. 6, 2001.

Reaching 30 long years in the pharmaceutical industry is a feat in itself. The continued success of any business endeavor lies in the clarity of its purpose and the genuineness of its commitment to be of greater service to the public.

This occasion provides an opportunity to reflect on the gains of the past years and reexamine the relevance of your corporate objectives in view of the socio-economic realities that confront your market, the Filipino people, today.

As I congratulate you for having achieved so much in the three decades of your existence and commend you for your contribution to overall economic development, allow me to take this opportunity to ask Pediatrica to support government's efforts to lower the cost of essential medicines.

As an important element of the healthcare system, you play a vital role in the implementation of programs that are geared towards improving the health status as well as the quality of lives of our fellow Filipinos, especially the underprivileged ones.

Together, let us support this noble undertaking and work towards achieving our common goal of improving our people's access to quality yet affordable health products and services.

Congratulations and *mabuhay!*

MANUEL M. DAYRIT, MD, MSC
Secretary
Department of Health

MY WARMEST felicitations to Pediatrica Inc. as you celebrate your 30th anniversary.

Pediatrica Inc. has always been a partner of the Bureau of Food and Drugs in promoting a sound relationship between the pharmaceutical industry as the regulated sector and BFAD-DOH as the regulatory agency. This partnership has provided opportunities for both sectors to become more dynamic and proficient in achieving their goals and objectives in striving to go beyond the attainment of good health.

It is my hope that Pediatrica Inc. would continue to live by its commitment to ensure the provision of safe, efficacious and good quality pharmaceutical products and to exert its leadership in healthcare for all Filipinos.

Again, my congratulations and best wishes to everyone involved in this milestone occasion. May you have a successful and fruitful celebration.

WILLIAM D. TORRES, PH.D.
Director
Bureau of Food and Drugs

ON BEHALF of the National Board of Trustees and 2,262 members of the Philippine Pediatric Society Inc. (PPS) distributed in the National Capital Region and in nine regional chapters, I congratulate Pediatrica Inc. most warmheartedly on the occasion of its 30th anniversary

This year also marks three fruitful decades of close partnership between PPS and Pediatrica in the areas of continuing pediatric education, community service and child advocacy, research and publications, and administration both along general and subspecialty concerns. I am certain that this partnership gets stronger every year so that I look forward to even bigger celebrations in 2011, 2021 and 2031.

Mabuhay ang samahang PPS *at* Pediatrica!

CARMELO A. ALFILER, MD
President
Philippine Pediatric Society Inc.

ALLOW me to congratulate Pediatrica on its pearl anniversary. For the past 30 years, Pediatrica has played an important role in promoting the health of the Filipino child by providing quality albeit affordable products and value added services.

It takes years and "tears" for an oyster to produce a good quality and highly valuable pearl, and in the same way, through years of dedicated service and commitment, Pediatrica has built a name that can be equated to excellence. From marketing two products, Pediatrica has certainly gone a long way in showing us that through hard work, discipline and dedication; we can achieve our goals and visions.

To the Pediatrica conquerors, more power!

CARLOS C. EJERCITO
President & CEO
United Laboratories Inc.

MY WARMEST greetings and congratulations to Pediatrica as it celebrates its 30th anniversary.

In so short a time, Pediatrica has achieved so much, and so many endeavors have been added to its store of memories. The victories that it had for the past decade would not have come to realization without concerted effort from the whole team, or more appropriately, the whole family. Indeed, the bayanihan spirit is evident in all of Pediatrica's ventures.

So to Unilab's No. 1 ethical/OTC division, may I say, continue the good work! Look back and never forget the past, keeping in your hearts burning the aim to promote the health and total well-being of the Filipino child, offer quality products and value-added services, and build lasting relationships with business patners and ultimate customers through competent and dedicated employees.

CHICHI BARROS
VP/Cluster Head
Pediatric & Nutritional Businesses, Unilab

PEDIATRICA, INC.
THE PEDIATRIC SPECIALIST

30 years of caring for Filipino children

FOR 30 years, Pediatrica, Inc., a division of United Laboratories, has built a solid reputation as a total child care specialist, offering products that range from vitamins, food supplement to medicines that cater exclusively to children.

If you're a mother you will recognize these top-selling products that Pediatrica has produced. They include vitamins and minerals such as Ceelin, Growee, and Nutrilin, respiratory drug Disudrin, anti-infectives Cefalin, Pediamox, and somatics Naprex and Relestal.

Ezar 'Chet' F. de Guia, vice president-general manager, says the strength of the company comes from the fact that its focus and thrust are children.

"The kind of business we do is distinct. We have an identified market—children. And it's our advantage. We're focused on pediatrics—all our products, which we promote to doctors and specialists, are suited for the needs of children. They're easy and fun for children to take."

The objective of genuine care for children is incorporated in the company's mission that states: "we are committed to promote the health and total well-being of the child, offer quality products and value-added services…so the child may live in total health."

De Guia says the mission has guided Pediatrica over the years to achieve success and recognition in the health community. The mission also propels the company to go beyond as a pharmaceutical company but as a company that provides products for the total health care of children.

"We like to be known not just a pharmaceutical company, but a company that thinks of the health and well-being of children," says De Guia.

Aside from expanding its presence in the Asian region in the near future, the company's new thrust is to move toward preventive care. De Guia says to expect more products that help build good health and well being in children. "Why wait for a child to get sick when we can prevent sickness to happen through proper care? So we're really coming out with more products that will keep children healthy."

Pediatrica is committed in promoting the health and total well being of the child through quality products and value-added services 'so the child may live in total health'

Pediatrica also keeps a balance of ethical and proprietary marketing of its products, De Guia says they promote brands to doctors and at the same time promote products to the consumer through advertising. The ethical marketing is necessary to make mothers know that Pediatrica products can be trusted.

Pediatrica was established on Dec. 6, 1971 and there were only 12 field personnel or representatives referred to by de Guia as "the 12 stout-hearted men." Today, Pediatrica's employees number to more than a hundred, a "lean and mean force," according to de Guia. Pediatrica's presence is nationwide with 88 field representatives assigned to different provinces.

Pediatrica, totally Filipino-owned, has already carved a substantial portion in the billion-peso pharmaceutical market. Today, Pediatrica offers a comprehensive line of quality products exclusively formulated to cover as many pediatric diseases or conditions. It has antibacterial, vitamins, antispasmodic, mucolytic, decongestant, analgesic-antipyretic, and even antituberculosis preparations.

"We see to it that our brands are affordable. I think that's the reason why we are successful. One of the most fulfilling aspects of working with Pediatrica is the fact that we are now recognized by the health community as a company that really takes care of children." *RPG*

CONGRATULATIONS, Pediatrica Inc., the pediatric specialist, on its pearl anniversary celebration.

It is indeed a tremendous milestone to reach 30 years. On an occasion such as this, it is only appropriate to look back and remember our heritage. Going back in time, 30 years ago, I wonder what it must feel like for 12 brave men to launch a company with nothing more than a vision, and faith in that vision that someday their efforts would bear fruit, and this baby division would grow to be a great force to reckon with in the pediatrics market.

Now as we face the future, let us remember the legacy that these men had left—a tiny seed of trust that would go on and be planted and grow in the hearts of thousands of doctors and millions of mothers today, trusting the company for their children's health. We should learn from their wisdom to always have faith, first in the divine providence and in each other, as we are of one family.

We can look ahead to a bright future, with the conqueror's prayer to " fulfill my commitment to my family and my beloved company, Pediatrica Inc., to uphold its vision, carry out its mission and live up to its core values."

Again, congratulations to my fellow Pediatrica conquerors and wishing you more fruitful and dedicated years… so the child may live in total health.

12/4/01
CHET F. DE GUIA
VP-General Manager
Pediatrica Inc.

Congratulations
and
Happy 30th Anniversary
to
Pediatrica, Inc.
makers of

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GROWEE
YOUR CHILD'S GROWTH VITAMINS
PEDIATRICA, INC.
THE PEDIATRIC SPECIALIST

Charity visits on Pearl day

PEDIATRICA'S Pearl Anniversary celebration today will be spent in the most meaningful way possible, amongst the very reason the pharmaceutical company exists: the children.

Activities will include a series of charity visits to Bantay Bata, the Philippine General Hospital and the National Children's Hospital and a thanksgiving Mass to be held in Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Valle Verde V, Pasig City.

After 30 years of existence, Pediatrica sets its sights forward--to the total health of our children and our children's children by providing them with pharmaceutical products of the highest quality and within reach of every family. This foresight is reflected in the anniversary theme "30 Years of Pediatrica: For Our Children, For Our Future."

From a staff complement of 12 marketing its first product Naprex when it began in 1971, Pediatrica has grown to 100 dedicated field and office staff marketing 17 product lines and 41 product formats. Indeed,

CHARITY/ C6

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and
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PEDIATRICA, INC.

PEDIATRICA, INC.
THE PEDIATRIC SPECIALIST

Charity visits on Pearl day

(From page C5)

Pediatrica may have grown in numbers, but its heart remains with the children.

Top caliber leaders of Pediatrica has steered the company to enormous successes in three decades of existence. Dr. Jose Laurente, Mr. Roger Ferreria, Dr. Amadeo Constantino, Dr. Salvador Franco, and present general manager Mr. Ezar de Guia have all made valuable contributions to the division—from launching and marketing new products to creating strong partnerships with doctors.

WELCOME!!!
PEDIATRICA CONQUERORS

PEDIATRICA EMPLOYEES as 'conquerors': 'We are one family concerned with each member's well-being and development.'

Today, Pediatrica offers a comprehensive line of quality products exclusively formulated to cover as many pediatric diseases or conditions. It has antibacterial, vitamins, antispasmodic, mucolytic, decongestant, analgesic-antipyretic, and even antituberculosis preparations.

The present leaders of Pediatrica are confident that as they celebrate their Pearl Anniversary, the division will continue to fulfill their mission of becoming the preferred partner for the total health of the Filipino child.

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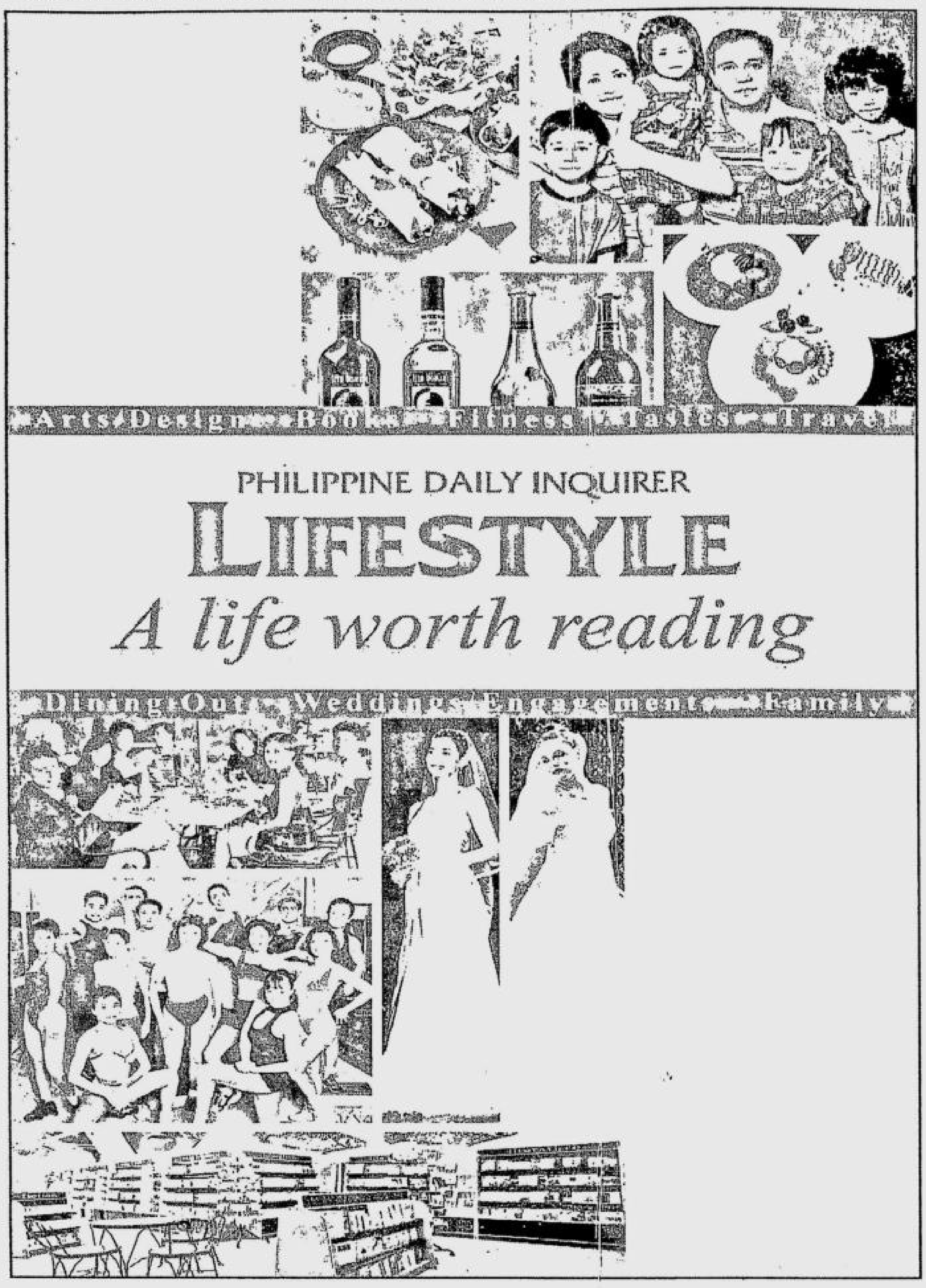
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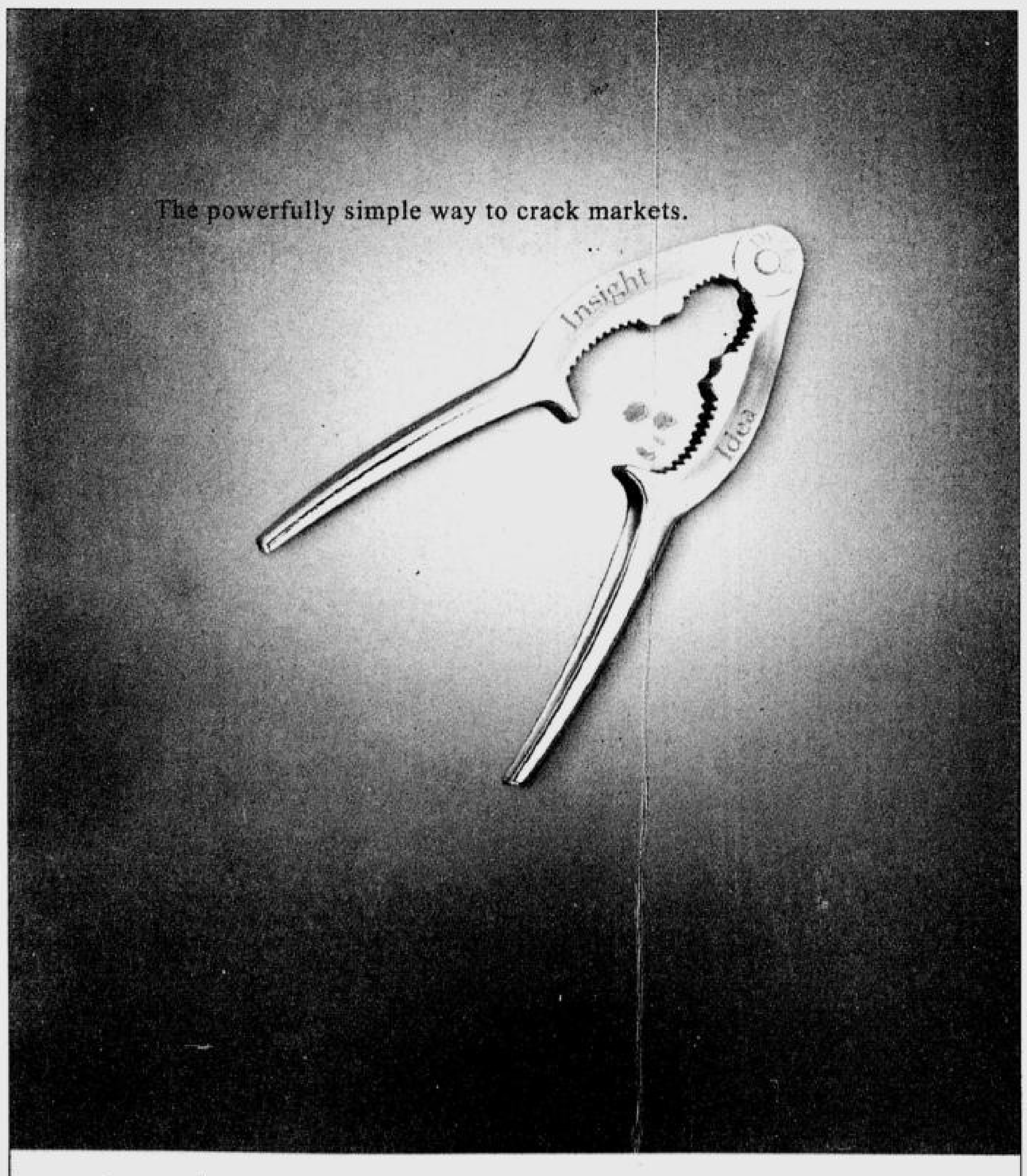

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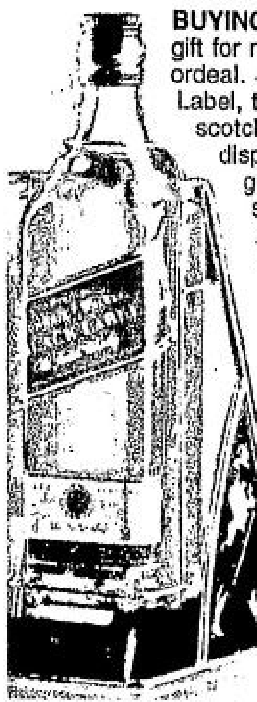
Thanks for looking after the kids*

Congratulations, Pediatrica, for 30 years of leading the way in children's health and nutrition.

Basic
ADVERTISING

Spirits of Christmas



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BUBBLERS

Philtrade Exhibits brings this joyous season a collection of liquors and bubblers from Louis Maclean Far East Limited at introductory and manufacturer's prices. The fair, which is ongoing until New Year's Eve, features regional and international cuisine to feast on at the 2/L Robinsons Place Manila (near Auntie Anne's), including delicacies and alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages. Call 820-7879/1570.

STARTER PACK

Wines and spirits not only liven up a party of a dinner celebration, they also make excellent gift suggestions. Topping the list are various brands distributed in the Philippines by Maxxium Phils. Inc., including Remy Martin fine champagne cognac, Romy Silver, Jim Beam bourbon whiskey, Famous Grouse whisky, Macallan single malt whisky; wines—Huger, Reserve St. Martin, Wolf Blass, Canyon Road, Geyser Peak, Barwang, Canepa, Paul Jaboulet, A. De Luze, Louis Latour; Piper Heidsieck champagne; liqueur—Bols, Passoa and Cointreau. Call 634-5370 to 72.

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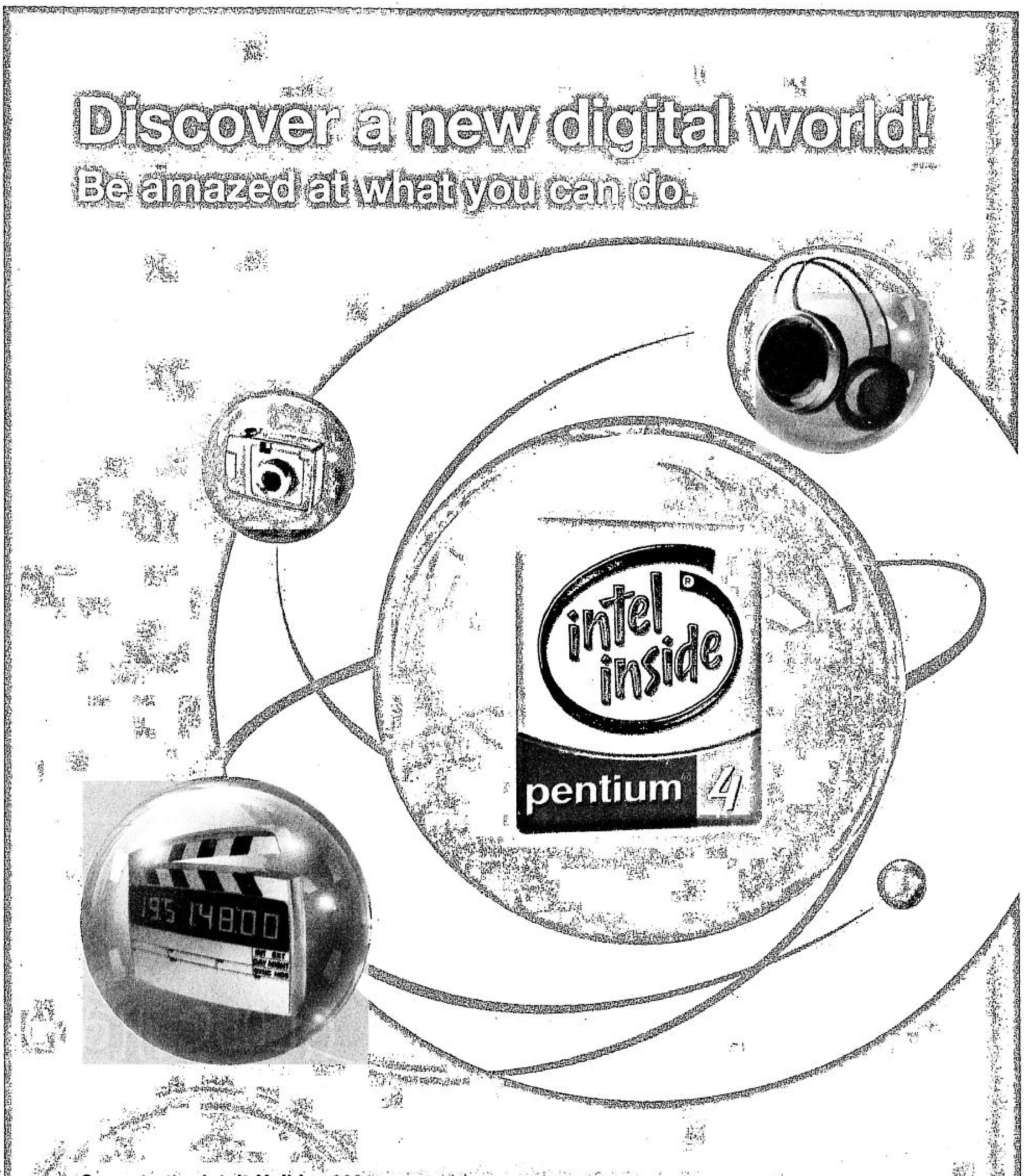
Hint: Check out *Business Friday section* on Friday, December 7 for Inquirer's My Wish Box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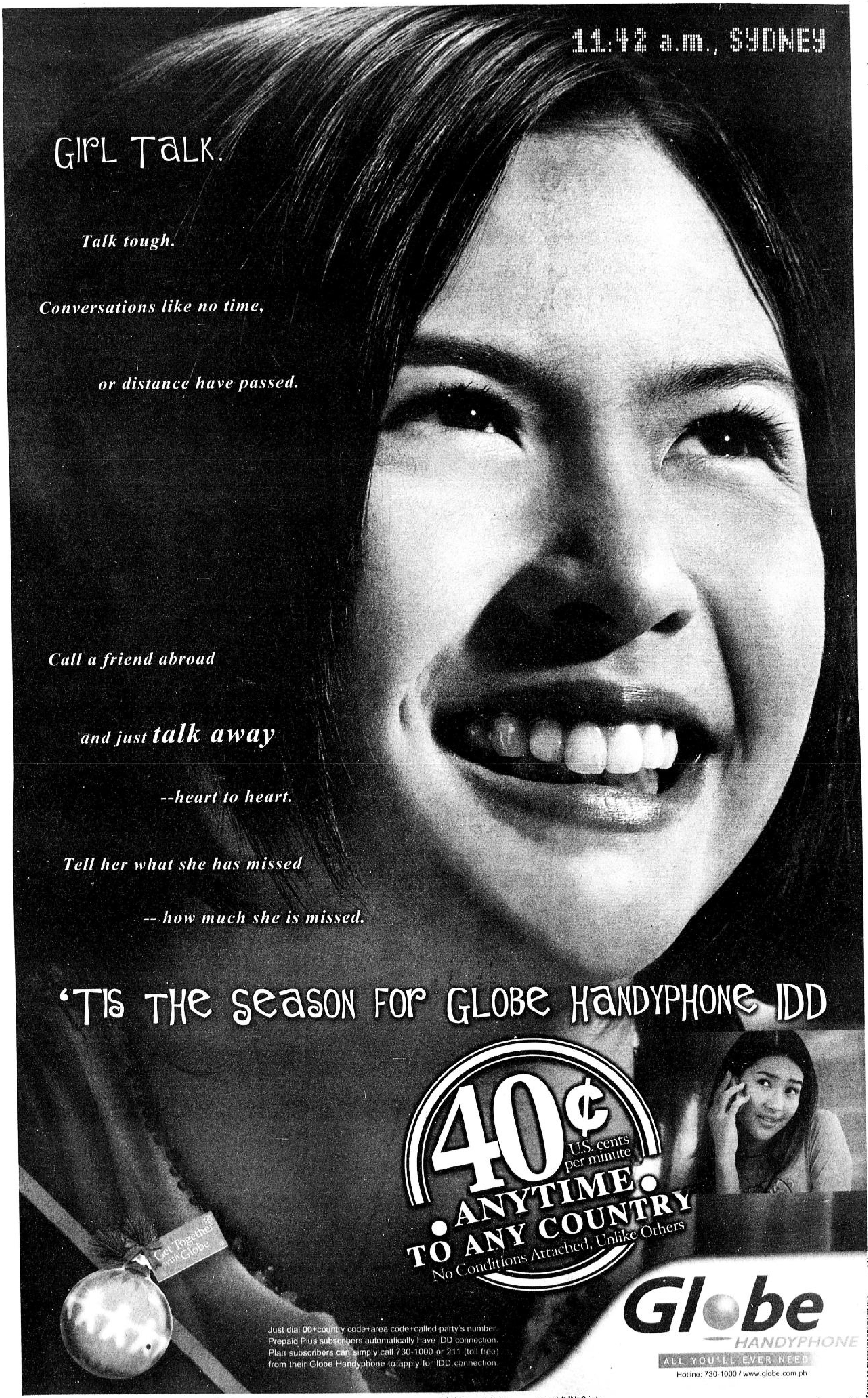

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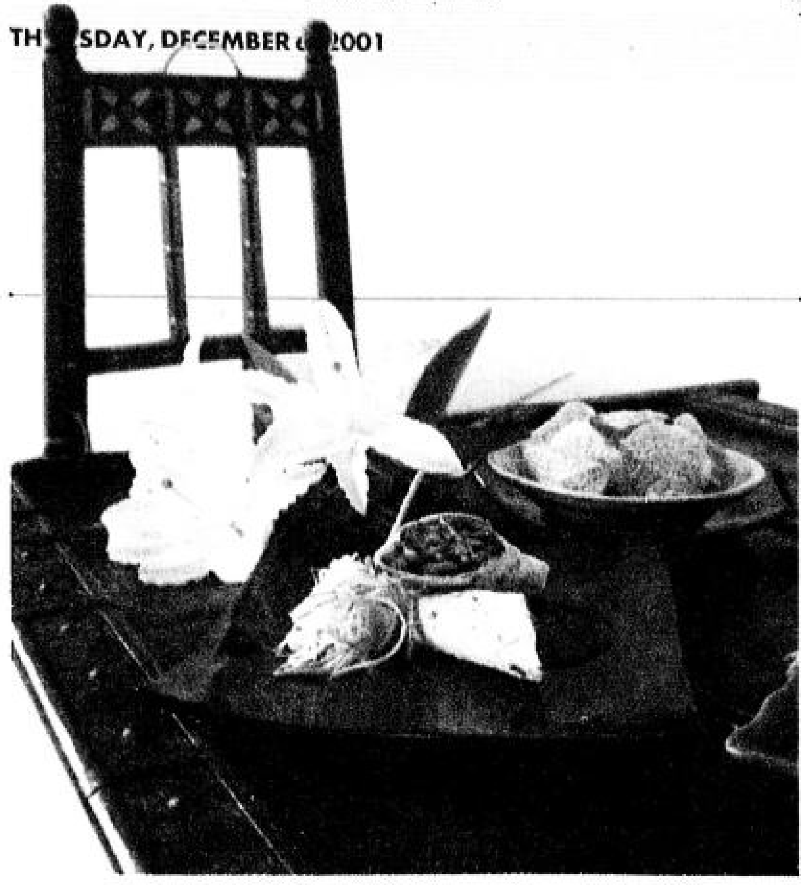
LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor



ROASTED duck rolled in mandarin pancakes and drizzled with tamarind honey sauce and taro chips.

King's heir apparent holds Fort

BY MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ
PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA
VISUAL CONCEPT BY ALBERT AVELLANA

EVER since Irish chef William Anthony King settled in Manila 16 years ago, he has adopted Filipino ways. His latest venture, a 360-sq m café-bar adjacent to Le Soufflé at The Fort, is a tribute to the Filipino's penchant for mélanges, which is a result of its colonial history.

The décor alone is a combination of disparate elements such as repros of animal chandeliers reminiscent of Viennese cafés and murals of tropical forests and walls padded with *banig*. Unlike Le Soufflé, which is known for its modern classic cuisine, this outlet specializes in fusion cuisine, quick meals and sandwiches. The dishes make use of local ingredients prepared the Western way.

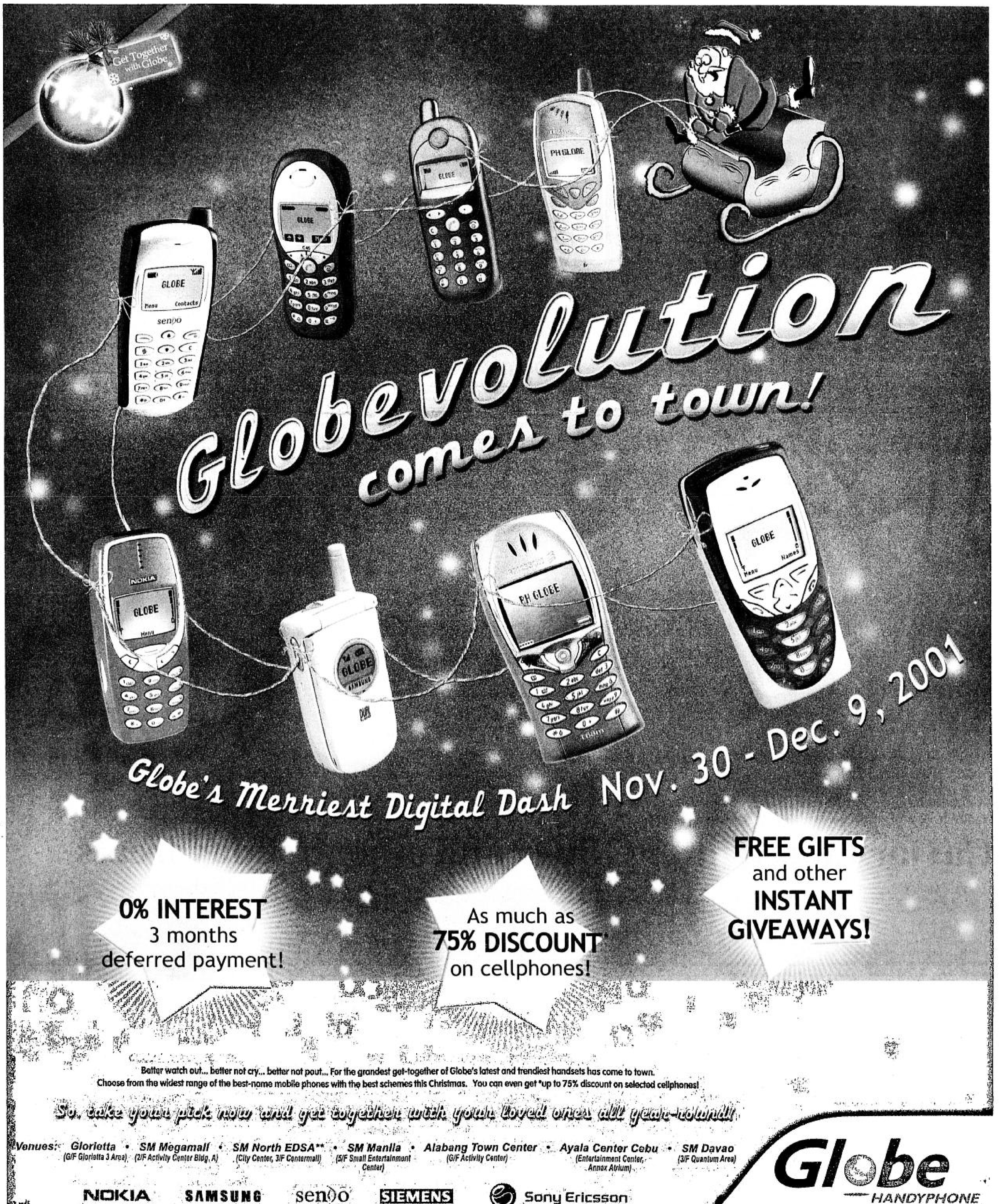
Asked why the expansion, King replied that Le Soufflé had been turning down big functions for lack of space at Le Soufflé. With the adjacent restaurant, it has now been accepting bookings for birthday parties, a wedding reception and office parties.

A portion of the space will be devoted to the Butcher's Shop and Grill. The steak house concept has been on King's mind for a long time. It will offer quality meat from the best sources. Most likely, the average diner would want a protein fix—medium rare steak, sometimes with an egg and a glass of wine.

Growth opportunities

Another reason for the expansion is that Le Soufflé had trained chefs and waiters who reached a high standard of excellence. King wanted to give growth opportunities for the team. This new café-bar is led by his protégé, executive sous chef Mauro Arjona who started with King when he was the food and beverage manager at the Hotel Inter-Continental Manila. He then became King's assistant at the defunct Truffles restaurant. For 10 years, he has been working at Le Soufflé. Arjona is proud of working with chefs from different nationalities such as Marc Aubrey,

KING/p.D2



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DUCK crêpes, roasted salad with taro chips, smoked lamb loin, flavored with *kakawati* leaves is accompanied by lentil salad and seared tuna..

King's heir apparent holds Fort

(From page D1)

Andreas Katzer, Steve Scudder. He has assimilated the classic cuisine, French cooking, Italian dishes and Spanish and Filipino inspirations.

Arjona recently won the grand prize in the Pinoy Nouvelle Cuisine Competition, organized by the Manila Shimbun, Food Magazine and Pan-Pacific Hotel. He captured the judges' imagination for his innovations of *adobo* made into napoleans, *lapu-lapu* with smoke-flavored coconut sauce and *mille feuille* of native fruits compote.

In this restaurant, Arjona puts his savvy to good use. For starters, Arjona prepared a roasted salad, drizzled with the classic oil and vinegar dressing, that was bursting with contrasting flavors and textures. Shiitake mushrooms and finely sliced strawberries were served atop a bed of assorted lettuce. Pickled ginger added a piquant taste. Another plate presented blackened tuna sashimi; cooked medium, rare accompanied by vegetable shavings, soy sauce and wasabe.

Seafoods seem to be the customers' favorites. The tuna belly is the bestseller. Grilled tuna is placed on a rice timbale and roasted vegetables, drizzled with garlicky cream sauce. Two can share this popular braised salmon head in teriyaki sauce, served on a pot with rice. The Prawn Sambal consists of stir-fried prawns, flavored with chili, onions, ginger and Malaysian anchovies. And, crab fat is the favorite sauce for linguini.

The group behind Le Soufflé, which is known for its modern classic cuisine, has opened a yet unnamed café-bar specializing in fusion cuisine, quick meals and sandwiches

Most customers ask for the Peach Walnut Cake which is a thick slice of fluffy meringue, sponge and four layers of walnuts and topped with peach halves. The other popular East-West desserts are the Halo-halo Parfait, a mousse with local candied ingredients like jackfruit and sweet red beans, and flambéed mango ice cream atop mango compote.

Loyal followers

Although the restaurant is still getting its bearing, the customer response has been positive. Most of the customers have followed the restaurant run by the Lucullus Food Corporation, led by Josefina Sincioco, the president. On his official title in the company, King modestly says, "Till the day I die, I'll always be the Chef. That's my life—cooking and creating." Lucullus, named after King's buddy and food critic Tony Moynihan, manages Le Soufflé at the Fort, where he and Marc Aubrey are based, and Le Soufflé Bistro in Ortigas, which is run by Sincioco. Le Soufflé recently opened a branch at the Manor Hotel in Baguio, on the invitation of Fil-Estate. Andreas Chatter oversees the Baguio outlet. The company is also a concessionaire at Citibank Tower's restaurant called Top of the City.

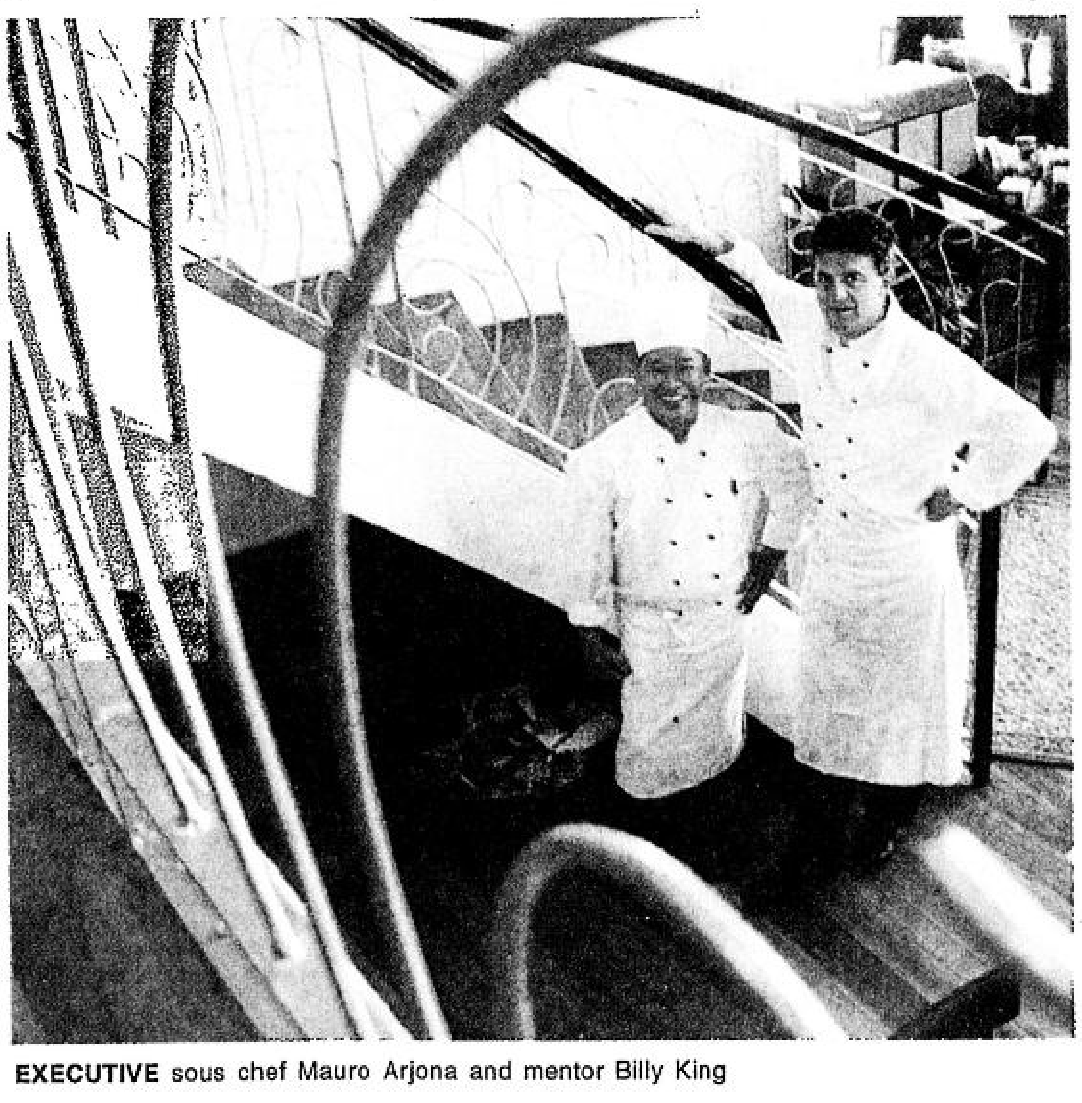
King says business has been flourishing in the outside catering. Right now, Le Soufflé is girding for a wedding reception, which will be held at the NBC Tent. The guest list comes up to 700 and the menu consists of seven courses. Multiplying the number of guests with the courses, the company has to serve 4,900 plates in less than three hours.

"It's nerve-racking and you can't afford to make mistakes," he says.

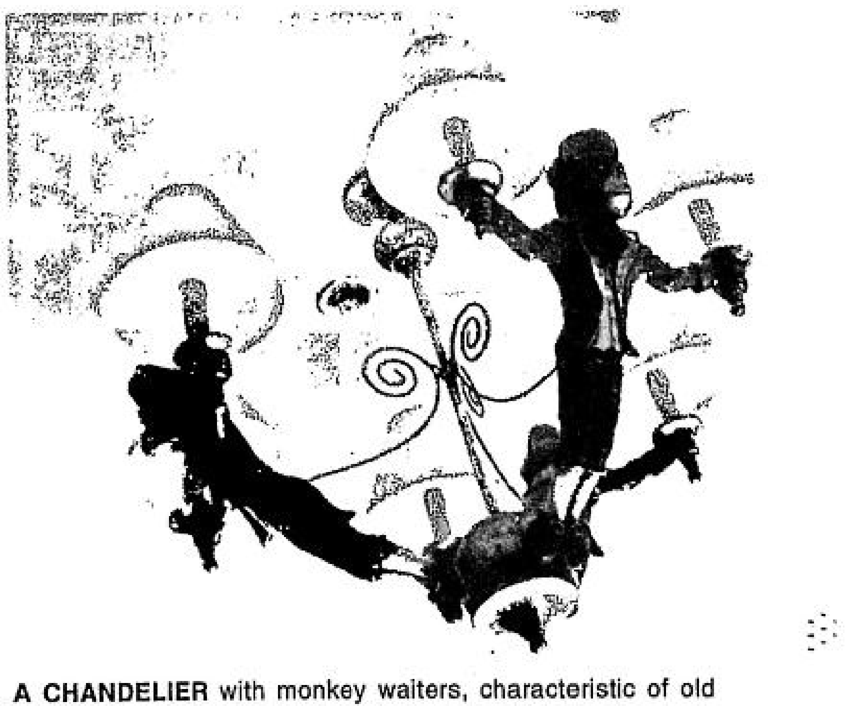
But the company has mastered the art of service, and this explains its success over the years, especially when the economy was volatile.

"If you produce quality, you get the business," King says. He adds that it comes with the right price and the consistent quality of the food. "If something doesn't work, we only have ourselves to blame and look for another solution."

THE INTERIOR design is a motley of tropical design with a touch of European. Jungle patterns are painted on the upper panels while the lower panels are padded with mat weaving.



EXECUTIVE sous chef Mauro Arjona and mentor Billy King



A CHANDELIER with monkey waiters, characteristic of old European cafés, adds a bit of humor.

Caviar Log, Winter Glitter and other holiday treats

DINING OUT

DADS RESTAURANT presents an intercontinental eat-all-you-can Christmas buffet festival, the "Winter Wonder World." Dig into specialties such as the Caviar Log, a tangy concoction of rolled cheese, liver pate and caviar; Santa's Fa La La, seared beef cubes topped with deep-fried onions and potatoes, served with red wine sauce; Sollomillo de Cerdo Relleno, baked tenderloin stuffed with cheese, carrots and raisins and served with honey cream sauce; Winter Glitter (Red Snapper Chauchat), baked *lapu-lapu* and potatoes, topped with white sauce and cheese; Beef Pate Maison, juicy grilled ground beef sprinkled with oatmeal and topped with crushed pineapple and cheese, among others. Dads branches are located at SM Megamall, Glorietta 3 and at Alabang Town Center.

TEQUILA JOE'S celebrates Christmas with a special offer. For every entrée you buy from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., you get any side item for free. If your taste buds itch for something Italian like pizza or pasta from 2 to 5 p.m., an order of either will entitle you to a free heaping of Monte Nachos plate. Jell-O shots are for buy-two, get-one from 9 p.m. to 12 mn. Promo runs until Dec. 15. Tequila Joe's is at El Pueblo in Ortigas Center, Glorietta 4 in Makati and Alabang Town Center. Call Tequila Joe's Worm on Wheels at 850-4798 or 850-9513 (Alabang) and 636-3599/3572 (El Pueblo) and 893-3777 or 812-0444 (Glorietta).

CAUSEWAY SEAFOOD RESTAURANT. Abalone tendered and flavored in special oyster sauce and garnished with vegetables of your choice is a favorite entrée at Causeway, where food is prepared by its seasoned chefs from Hong Kong. Causeway also offers generous servings of noodles, congee, dimsum and rice toppings at reasonable prices. Located at Adriatico in Malate and Banawe corner del Monte Avenue, QC, Causeway will open its third outlet in Libis before the year ends. It also caters to family gatherings, corporate functions and other celebrations. Call 410-8690 (Banawe) or 522-9534 (Malate).

PADI'S MINDAVE. Although the crispy Mindave Sisig and ice-cold beers are the hottest bestsellers at Padi's Mindave, the menu offers many other different *sisig* preparations, eight kinds of barbecues, grilled seafoods and other Filipino/Spanish cuisines. Barbecues come in five flavors such as homestyle, spicy, peanut, mustard and teriyaki. Despite daily free entrance to concerts, Padi's Mindave foods and drinks are reasonably priced. The 510-seater restaurant, bar and entertainment center is located at the corner of Mindanao and Congressional Avenues, QC. Call 453-0080, 414-4930 to 34 or 925-3117.

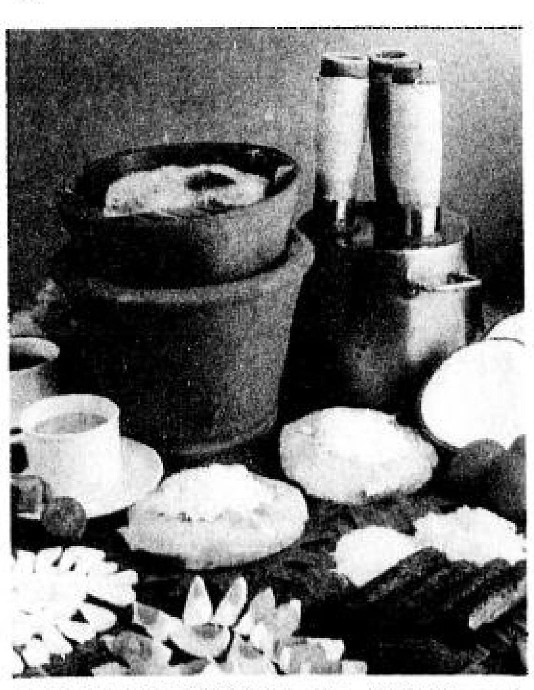
BURGOO AMERICAN BAR AND RESTAURANT offers four great supreme choices like the Seafood Caesar Supreme, Shrimp Supreme Pizza, Country-Style Chicken Supreme and the Supreme Sampler (a combination of four delicious appetizers such as Crispy Onion Rings, Sta. Fe Spring Rolls, Buffalo Chicken Wings and Chimichanga). Visit Burgoo at 310 Tomas Morato Extension, South Triangle, Diliman, QC and at the 3/L, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati City. Call 927-7424 or 898-1815 to18.

MARCO POLO in Davao offers a taste of Latin and South America in Zur Buffet, a new dining experience at the Café Marco. Zur Buffet, which opened last month, fuses the cuisine and cooking styles of Latin and South America, as well as Brazilian, Argentinian and the Southern French styles of cooking. Have a little taste of the South at the Café Marco of The Marco Polo, Davao every Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Call (082)-221-0888, local 7223.

DUSIT HOTEL NIKKO's Jumbo Lobster is featured at Benkay Restaurant this month. Master chef Yoshikatsu Yasuda has prepared Lobster Kaiseki (set menu) at P2,000 per person. Starters include Lobster with Salted Innards of Hoya, Lobster and Chrysanthemum with Lobster Roe Sauce and Clear Soup with Lobster. For the main course, try the Raw Lobster, Grilled Lobster with Walnut Sauce, Deep-fried Lobster with Herbs, Egg Curd with Lobster, Steamed Rice with Lobster, Ginko Nut and Matsutake Mushroom with Miso Soup with Lobster. Homemade Japanese pickles are served as side dish while seasoned fruits are a fitting ending for dessert. Call 867-3333, local 3343/3344.

SBARRO. From soup to dessert, each one is prepared to satisfy your discriminating palate. Pick your choice: Mushroom Soup, Caesar Salad, Macaroni Salad, Roasted Chicken served with rice, pasta or garlic bread, Chicken Parmingiana. One should not miss the restaurant's delicious pizza and pasta varieties such as Baked Ziti, Spinach or Meat Lasagna, Spaghetti with Meatballs, Spaghetti with Alfredo or Meat Sauce, Supreme Pizza, Hawaiian Pizza, Pepperoni Pizza and White Cheese Pizza, etc. Strombolli and Calzone are also available. Visit Sbarro branches at SM City North Edsa, SM Megamall, Robinsons Place Manila, Glorietta 2 in Ayala and Festival Mall in Alabang.

GOOD NEWS CAFÉ. Kuh Ledesma's new café serves Chinese dishes by Good Earth Tea room, Japanese and Italian food by Survival Café. Located at Ledesma's house in Pasay City, the café is open from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m., Fridays to Saturdays. It's also open for brunch on Sundays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Good News Café is also open for wedding receptions, private dinners, corporate launches and other events. The Good News Café is at 2720 Figueroa St., San Rafael District, Pasay City. Call 551-7252 to 55 or fax 551-7251.

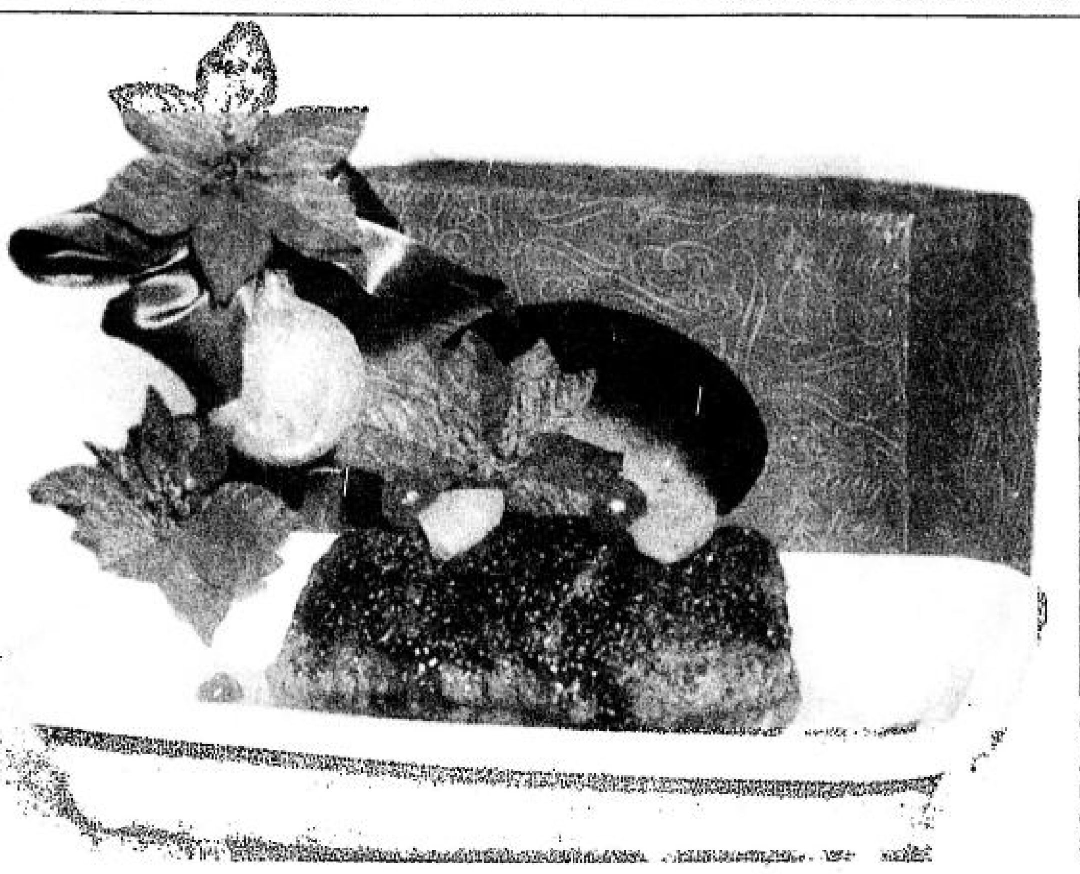


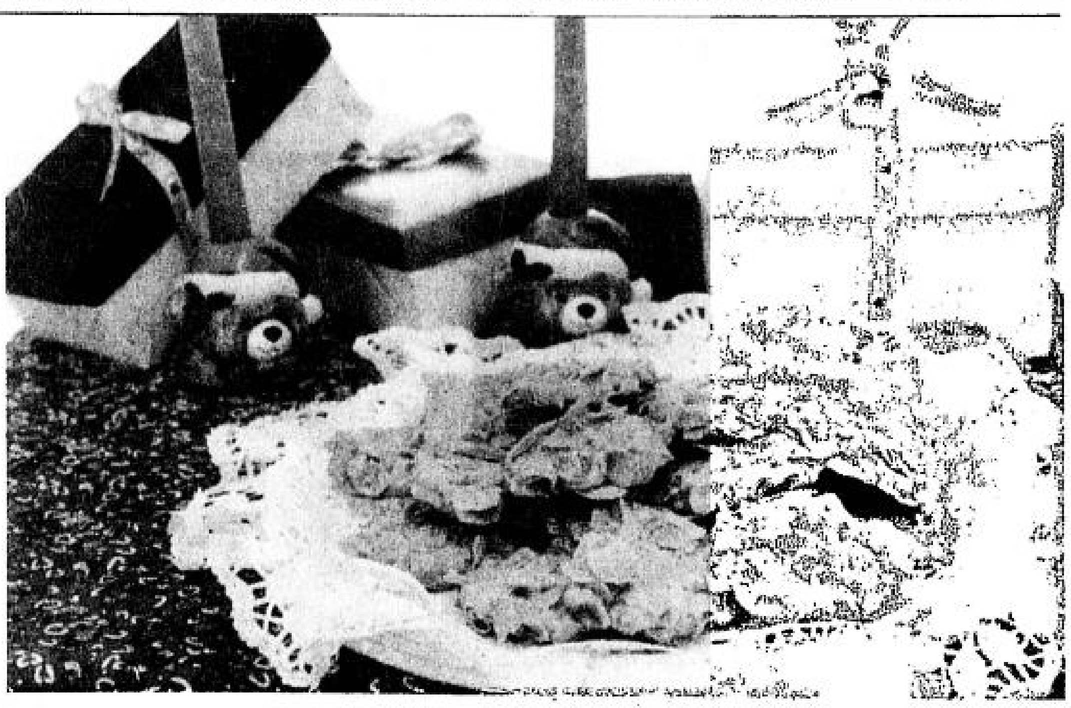
MANILA MIDTOWN'S native *bibingka* and *puto bumbong* go best with the hotel's native chocolate and *salabat*! Catch the *bibingka* and *puto bumbong* station right outside the hotel lobby for the whole month of December, 6-10 p.m. Call 526-7001, local 6554.

Edible Christmas

HAM IT UP

Josefa's Christmas Hams is now accepting advanced orders for their best-selling boneless Christmas Fortune Ham and Christmas Chicken Ham. Made of choice cut pork loin and cured in a sweet pineapple-based sauce, this homemade treat is sure to be a hit with the family, even the kids. The ham is sweet and tender, and cooked the very day you want it delivered. Each ham comes in a decorative red box with a see-through cover, suitable for gift giving. Order at least two weeks in advance to allow for curing time. Call 372-0668 or 371-9738.





COOKIE DELIGHTS

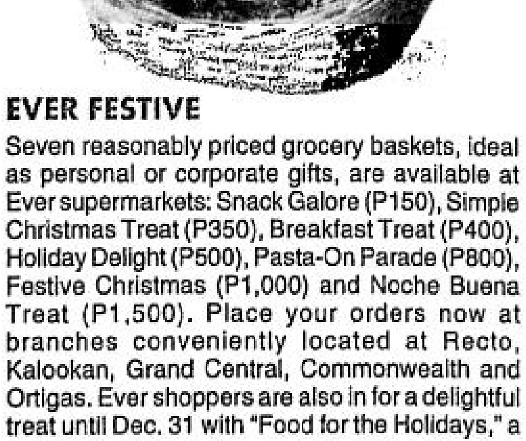
A box of Cornflake Cookies from Grace's Kitchen makes for a finger-lickin' gift. Let them nibble on the home-baked goodness of the soft-and-crunchy mix of palm-sized cookies made of cornflakes. These wonderful pastry delights come in special boxes of 15 for only P130, 30 pieces for only P200. Call 631-0495 or 632-1564.

HOLIDAY CAKES

Marita Laddaran of Hearts and Bells offers a Christmas tree cake in fondant, Santa Claus cake in fondant and specialty cakes like New York Cheesecake, Chocolate Decadence, Carrot Cake, Supermoist Chocolate Cake and others. She also has her own version of Harry Potter cake. Call 244-0255.

COFFEE SAVER

Figaro has put together a "Save the Barako" gift set for coffee lovers who also want to help the local coffee industry. The gift set contains a coffee mug that proudly says "I helped save the Barako" and the freshly roasted Barako Gold and Barako Blend. An ideal conversation starter, part of the proceeds will go to Figaro's Barako Revitalization. Call 751-1801 for the location of the Figaro branch nearest you. Corporate orders are most welcome. Log on to www.fiqarocoffee.com for more details.



EVER FESTIVE

Seven reasonably priced grocery baskets, ideal as personal or corporate gifts, are available at Ever supermarkets: Snack Galore (P150), Simple Christmas Treat (P350), Breakfast Treat (P400), Holiday Delight (P500), Pasta-On Parade (P800), Festive Christmas (P1,000) and Noche Buena Treat (P1,500). Place your orders now at branches conveniently located at Recto, Kalookan, Grand Central, Commonwealth and Ortigas. Ever shoppers are also in for a delightful treat until Dec. 31 with "Food for the Holidays," a showcase of food to complete the holiday season at Ever Gotesco Malls Commonwealth, Ortigas and Grand Central.

shopping for a whole new wardrobe: free
dining in the finest restaurants: free
travelling to an exciting city abroad: free
the pleasure of indulging in the things you enjoy:
priceless

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With **MasterCard's PRICELESS PLEASURES Promo**, every charge slip worth P1,000.00 or more is one entry closer to your priceless pleasure. To join, simply write your name, address, phone number and signature at the back of the qualified charged slip and mail to: "MasterCard's Priceless Pleasures Promo" MCPO Box 1923, Makati City.

1st Monthly Draw: Jan. 15, 2002 (33 winners) • Rustan's Gift Certificates worth P10,000 each (8 winners) • Dish Gift Certificates worth P7,000 each (4 winners) • Chili's Gift Certificates worth P7,000 each (2 winners) • Don Henrico's Gift Certificates worth P7,000 each (2 winners) • Friday's Gift Certificates worth P7,000 each (2 winners) • Cash Credits worth P5,000 each (15 winners)

2nd Monthly Draw: Feb. 15, 2002 (33 winners) • Rustan's Gift Certificates worth P10,000 each (8 winners) • Dish Gift Certificates worth P7,000 each (2 winners) • Old Manila Gift Certificates worth P7,000 each (2 winners) • Tivoli Grill Gift Certificates worth P7,000 each (2 winners) • Benkay Gift Certificates worth P7,000 each (2 winners) • Bocarinos Gift Certificates worth P7,000 each (2 winners) • Cash Credits worth P5,000 each (15 winners)

3rd Monthly Draw: March 15, 2002 (33 winners) • Rustan's Gift Certificates worth P10,000 each (8 winners) • Dish Gift Certificates worth P7,000 each (2 winners) • El Comedor Gift Certificates worth P7,000 each (2 winners) • La Primavera Gift Certificates worth P7,000 each (2 winners) • Gloria Maris Gift Certificates worth P7,000 each (2 winners) • Sugi Gift Certificates worth P7,000 each (2 winners) • Cash Credits worth P5,000 each (15 winners)

Grand Draw: April 15, 2002 (5 winners) 1st: P1,000,000.00 (1 winner) 2nd: P500,000.00 (1 winner) 3rd: Trip for 2 to Bangkok (3 winners) (inclusive of: RT airfare, 4D/3N hotel accommodation, complimentary breakfasts & pocket money worth USD $500.)

MasterCard MasterCard Electronic

Promo period December 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002. See posters and flyers for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4068, Series of 2001.

TUNE IN...TEXT IN...WIN!

Week 1: Davao adventure for two

Week 2: Boracay getaway for two

Week 3: Cebu escapade for two

Week 4: Palawan vacation for two

Globe
HANDYPHONE

Text Away to Getaway!

Win in the weekly draw!

Win in the grand draw!

Ford Expedition for family outings!

Trip for 4 to Australia courtesy of

CATHAY PACIFIC

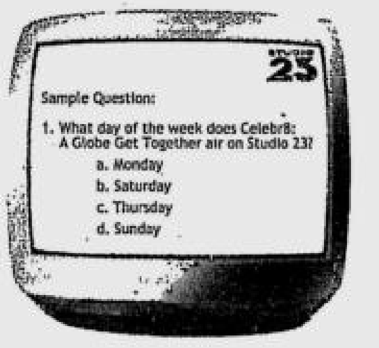
Ford Explorer Sport Trac for road trips with friends!

Here's how you can join:

Step 1: Watch Celebr8 on Studio23 Tonight at 9pm.

celebr8
A Globe Get-Together

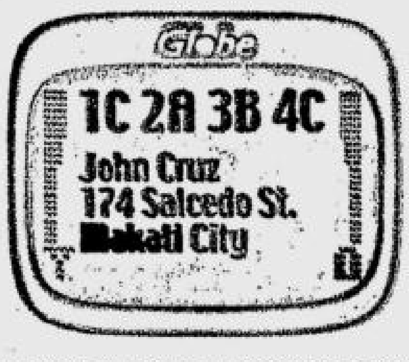
Step 2: Wait for the four multiple-choice trivia questions that will be flashed at random during the show.



Sample Question:

1. What day of the week does Celebr8: A Globe Get Together air on Studio 23?
   a. Monday
   b. Saturday
   c. Thursday
   d. Sunday

Step 3: Key-in your answer to all four (4) questions, along with your name and address. Follow the format shown below.
Format sample: 1C_2A_3B_4D_First Name_Last Name_Address



1C 2A 3B 4C
John Cruz
174 Salcedo St.
Makati City

Step 4: Send your complete set of answers to 2378. The hosts will give you the signal when to start texting in your answers. You qualify for the weekly and grand draw for each text message you send with the correct set of answers.

What else you need to know:

How many times can I send an entry?

You may text in your correct answers up to 20 times per show/week. On your 21st correct text message, you shall receive the text message: "You have exceeded the maximum number of entries. Please try again by watching the show next week. Thank you.". Each text message shall be charged an entry fee of ₱10.00. Watch all four shows and send in as many as 80 correct entries.

How do I know if I sent in the correct answer?

If your answers to all four (4) questions, in each show, are correct, you will receive this text message from 2378: "Congratulations! You have the correct answers to our questions! You now qualify in the weekly and grand draws!"

If your answer is incorrect, you will receive this text message from 2378: "Your answer is incorrect. Please re-type the answers with the correct sequence and send to 2378 again."

So, only text entries with correct answers and its sequence shall be considered as qualified for the contest.

Who will qualify for the weekly and grand draw?

All Globe Handyphone subscribers who texted in the correct answer are qualified in the weekly and grand draws which will be conducted via an Electronic Draw. If you qualify, your Globe Handyphone number will be stored in the database of correct and valid entries and will be included in the Electronic Draw.

Schedule for texting in entries:

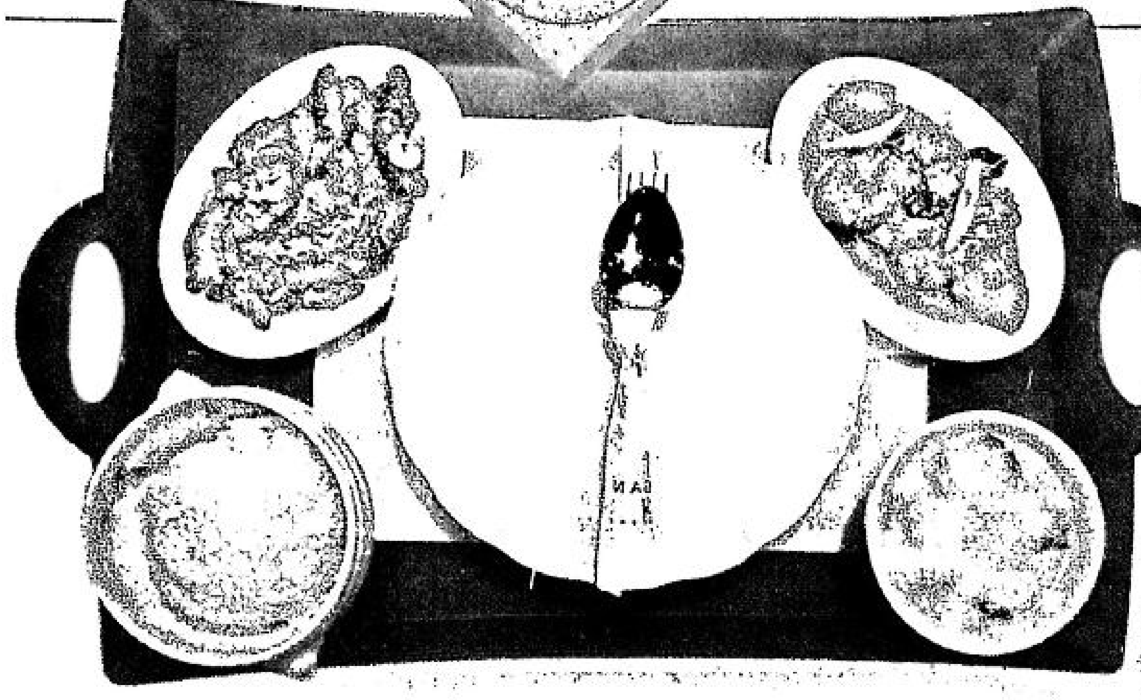
For the weekly draw, you may text in your correct answers for each episode until the following day. For the grand draw, you may text in your correct answers until December 11. All correct non-winning entries from the weekly draws are automatically qualified in the grand draw.

celebr8
A Globe Get-Together

See posters and flyers for more details.

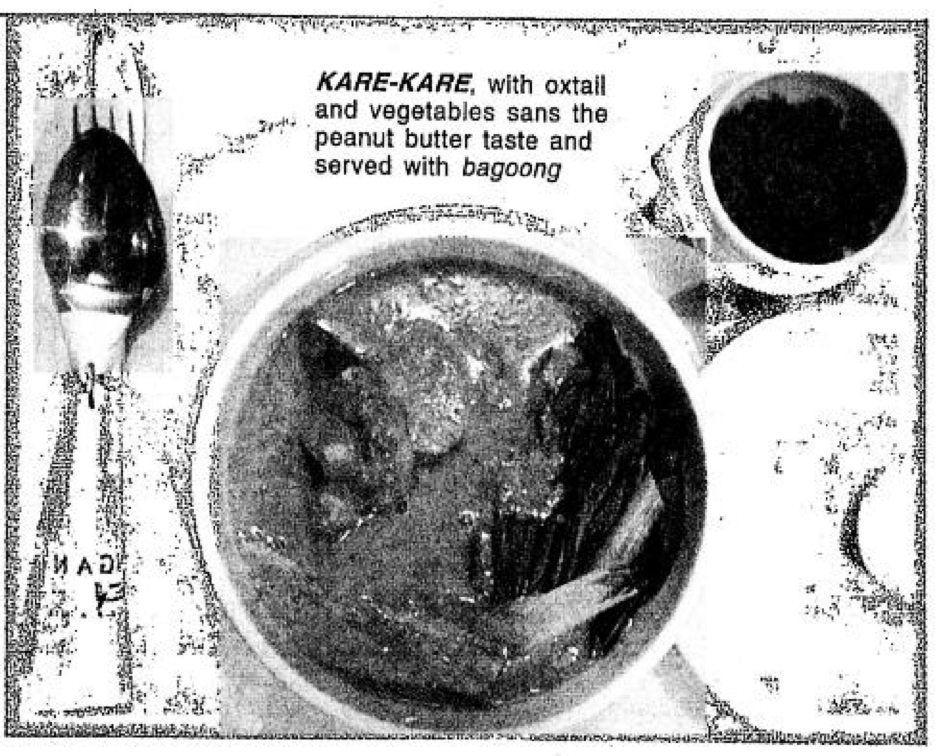
FOR FEEDBACK, TEXT US AT (0919) 661-2337 OR EMAIL US AT LIFESTYLE@INQUIRER.COM.PH

LIFESTYLE



AN IM-BENTO combo composed of *milagrosa* rice, *swam na mais*, sautéed *ampalaya* and *sugpo sa alige*

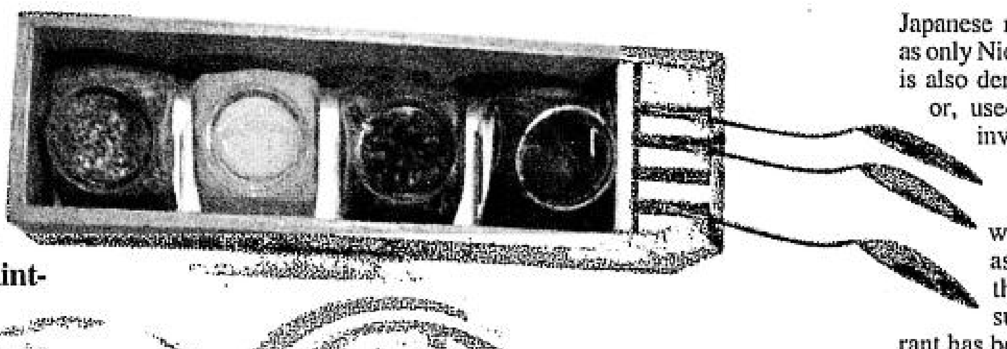
The secrets to good food at this hip Pampango resto are the homegrown recipes and à la minute preparation

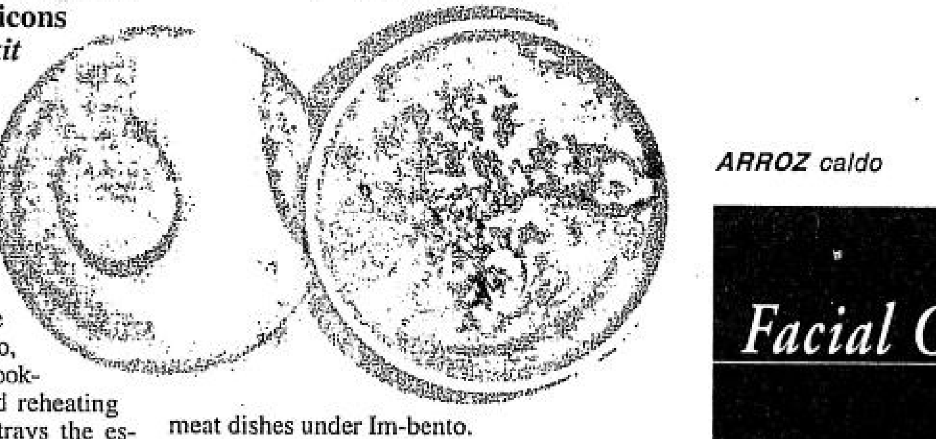


KARE-KARE, with oxtail and vegetables sans the peanut butter taste and served with *bagoong*

Mangan is authentic 'mekeni' dining

BY ALEX Y. VERGARA
PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN





ARROZ *caldo*

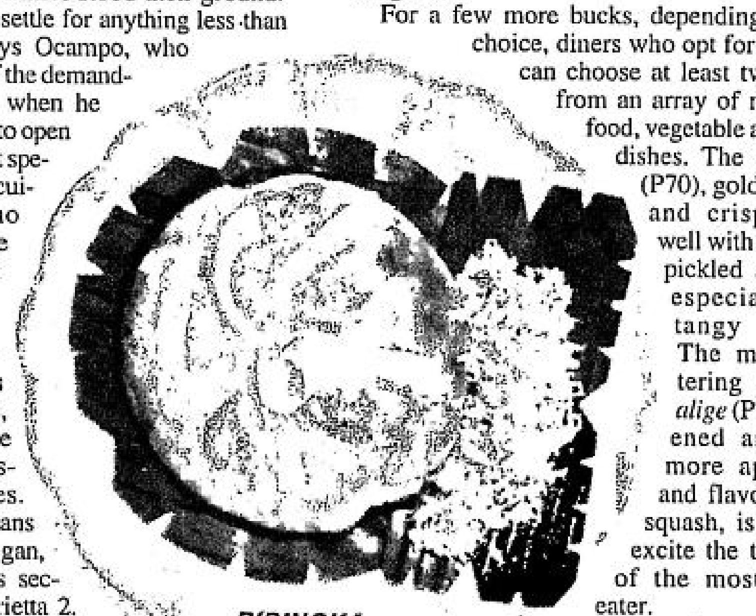
NEVER mind the variety of fresh ingredients and myriad ways they're prepared and presented in this Pampango restaurant. Forget the stylized *turo-turo* setup complete with paintings of pop and historical icons framed in signature *ukit-ukit* that border on the kitsch. Take it from businessman Ricco Ocampo, a true-blue Kapampangan from San Fernando, the secret to good cooking is simple: prepare the dishes "à la minute."

"Every dish should only be cooked upon order," says Ocampo, part owner of Mangan restaurant. "Cooking everything in the morning and reheating them during lunch and dinner betrays the essence of real Kapampangan cooking. Doing it the right way, however, entails a lot of time and could cause some problems."

Nothing less

This Ocampo and partners Maritel Nievera and Rikki Dee found out soon after opening their first restaurant at Robinsons Manila. Orders took a long time to cook resulting in long lines during peak hours. Rather than lower their standards, Ocampo and his partners stood their ground.

"We will never settle for anything less than *lutong bahay*," says Ocampo, who learned the ropes of the demanding food business when he and Dee teamed up to open Kitchen, a restaurant specializing in fusion cuisine. "There's no other way to prepare good Kapampangan food."



BIBINGKA

In due time, the staff, from the Kapampangan cooks to the food servers, was able to meet the demands of the discriminating bosses. Mangan, which means "eat" in Kapampangan, recently opened its second branch at Glorietta 2. There are no long lines, but judging from the good volume of diners one evening, people are continuing to heed Ocampo and company's invitation.

Aside from providing diners fast and authentic regional cuisine, Mangan offers generous servings at very reasonable prices. At P195 a pop, the *kare-kare*, made of tender pieces of oxtail, is good enough for two to three people. Unlike most commercial preparations, the dish's thick, yellowish base is free from the sweet aftertaste of peanut butter.

But the *umba* (yes, without the h, that's Pampango for you) is a different story. In keeping with tradition, the stewed pork dish—in rich, dark sauce derived from soy sauce and vinegar and flavored with such seasonings as whole black pepper—is a tad sweet. It's one of the featured meat dishes under Im-bento.

Bento box, Pampango style

At P40 a pop, Im-bento consists of rice, soup of the day and such pickled appetizers as *achara*, *burong camias* or *burong mustasa*. Mangan, by the way, serves no less than *milagrosa*, a expensive and fragrant variety of rice. Ocampo's reason? "My family served only *milagrosa* while I was growing up in Pampanga. For some reason, you're no food connoisseur if you settle for anything less."

For a few more bucks, depending on their choice, diners who opt for Im-bento can choose at least two viands from an array of meat, seafood, vegetable and grilled dishes. The fried *hito* (P70), golden brown and crispy, goes well with any of the pickled appetizer, especially the tangy *camias*. The mouth-watering *sugpo sa alige* (P75), thickened and made more appetizing and flavorful with squash, is likely to excite the taste buds of the most finicky eater.

There are also several sautéed vegetable dishes to choose from: *lagat* or chopped *labanos*, *lagat ampalaya*, *bawang gule* and *gatang sigarilyas* with *bagoong*. Then there's *tidtad* (*dinuguan* to non-Pampangos), *lechon* and *quilain babi*. Yes, *babi* as in *baboy* (pig).

Indeed, going through the menu is like taking an introductory lesson in Kapampangan. In fact, Ocampo originally wanted all the items in the menu written in the dialect.

"We did just that during our first few months," he says. "But it took the waiters so much time explaining each item that we eventually translated most of the dishes in Tagalog."

Im-bento, from Ocampo's ever-expanding glossary of marketing terms, could actually mean two things: combo dishes in bento boxes like in most Japanese restaurants and creative combinations as only Nievera and Dee could come up. Im-bento is also derived from the Kapampangan *imbentu* or, used in a gourmand's sense, something invented in the kitchen.

Hip cousin

Ocampo and Dee are reaping the rewards of Nievera's invaluable experience as a restaurateur. Nievera is known in the business as the woman behind the successful Cabalen chain. The restaurant has been attracting a loyal following for its affordable eat-all-you-can Kapampangan buffet.

Of course, Ocampo insists, both Filipino restaurants serve only the best. But Mangan is different. It is the more hip and casual cousin, with accents such as oversized dome lights and mirrors to camouflage its limited floor area. And Just like in a typical *turo-turo* joint, food choices are permanently painted on the mirrors. Ocampo, who says his real expertise is in marketing, also poked fun—albeit with fondness—at his *cabalen*'s penchant for covering furniture pieces with plastic. A white sofa on one side of the Glorietta 2 outlet is permanently covered with the transparent material.

"Mangan is an all-day, casual restaurant," he says. "So we also serve merienda items such as *puto bumbong*, *bibingka* and *halo-halo*, Guagua style, with lots of *leche flan*, sweet bananas and *macapuno*." All prepared and served à la minute.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

WHY take the highway to San Fernando? People can just hie off to the newly opened Glorietta branch.

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Active Whitening Treatment.

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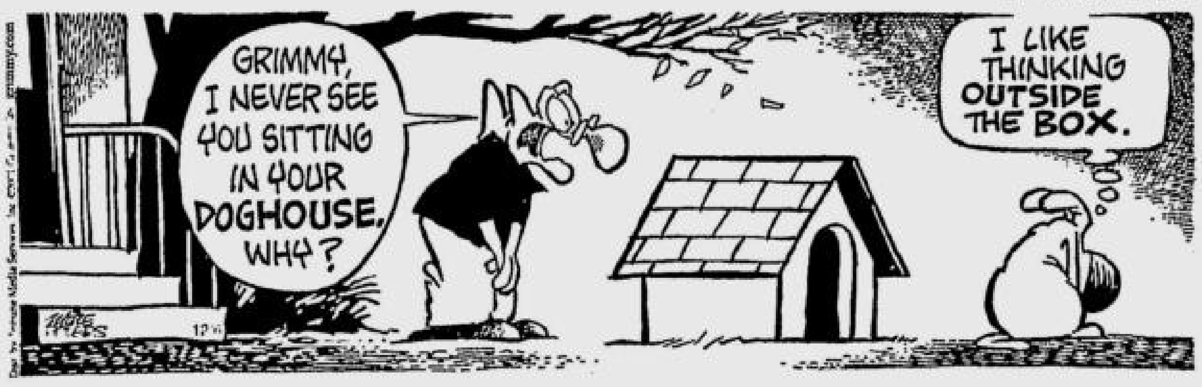
ALL CENTERS ARE NOW OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK. Per DTI-NCR Permit #4016, Series of 2001
MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SAT. (8 AM - 5 PM) / SUN. (10 AM - 3 PM)

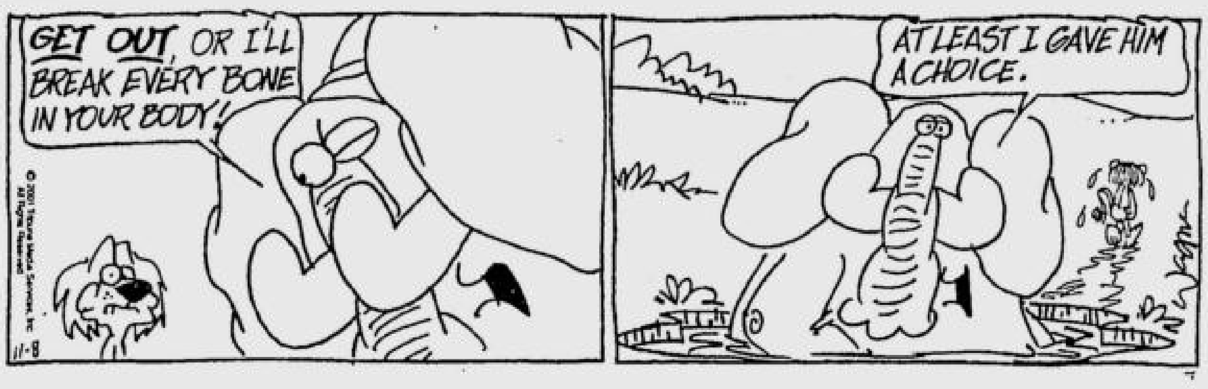
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


GRIMMY, I NEVER SEE YOU SITTING IN YOUR DOGHOUSE. WHY?
I LIKE THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX.

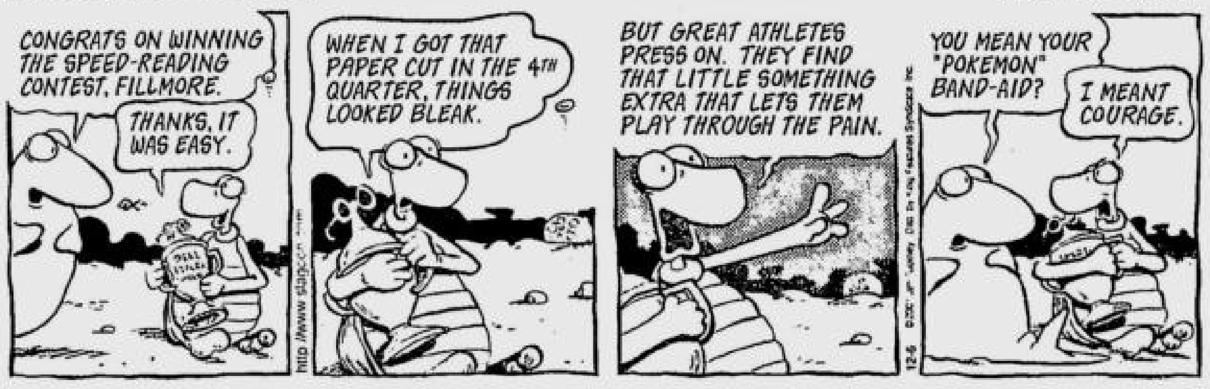
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


GET OUT, OR I'LL BREAK EVERY BONE IN YOUR BODY!
AT LEAST I GAVE HIM A CHOICE.
11-8

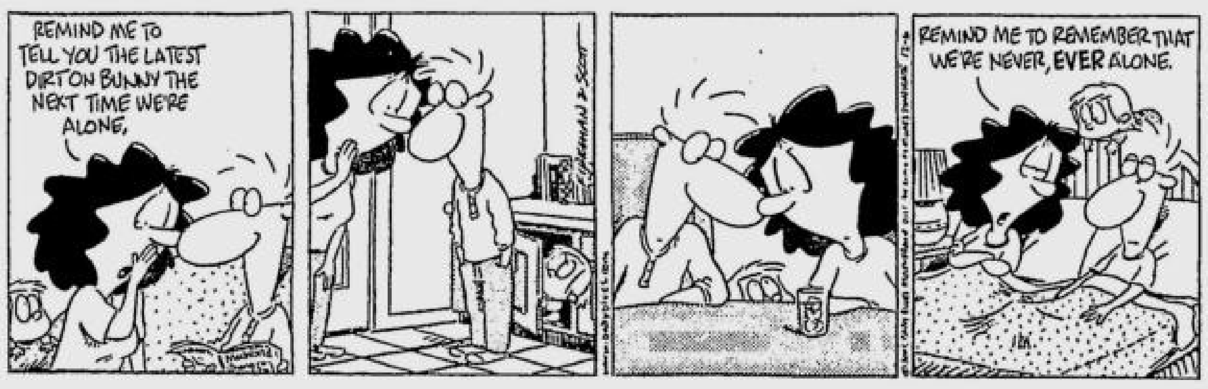
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


CONGRATS ON WINNING THE SPEED-READING CONTEST, FILLMORE.
THANKS, IT WAS EASY.
WHEN I GOT THAT PAPER CUT IN THE 4TH QUARTER, THINGS LOOKED BLEAK.
BUT GREAT ATHLETES PRESS ON. THEY FIND THAT LITTLE SOMETHING EXTRA THAT LETS THEM PLAY THROUGH THE PAIN.
YOU MEAN YOUR "POKEMON" BAND-AID?
I MEANT COURAGE.

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


REMIND ME TO TELL YOU THE LATEST DIRT ON BUNNY THE NEXT TIME WE'RE ALONE.
REMIND ME TO REMEMBER THAT WE'RE NEVER, EVER ALONE.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dave Brubeck, Nick Park, Thomas Hulce, Don King, Janine Turner, Steven Wright

Happy Birthday: There will be continuing changes going on around you this year but that doesn't mean that you won't do well. If you relax and accept things as they unfold you will discover that you are in a pretty good position. Your ability to learn quickly and to discover new ways of doing things will enhance your reputation and bring you the extra help you need in order to accomplish your goals. Don't waste your time by looking back. Your numbers: 8, 19, 20, 24, 33, 37

ARIES (March 21-April 19): What you put out you'll get back. A little extra effort at work will bring huge rewards. You can get ahead if you play your cards right. Your ability to get the job done won't go unnoticed.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You could lose money or precious belongings if you aren't careful. If someone tries to talk you into a financial deal walk away. Travel or entertainment will be fun but don't expect it to come cheap.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will be moody today. Steer clear of others to avoid disputes. Tempers will surface if you haven't been pulling your weight. You may want to reevaluate what it is that you want to do.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't let anyone meddle in your affairs. Unexpected romantic connections can be made if you go out with friends or take a pleasure trip. You can't let anyone pick your partner for you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Get out and get active. Competitive sports or other events should put you in your element. One thing to keep in mind, money will be a problem if you don't keep track of how much you spend.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Sit back and think before taking action. You are probably over-reacting to the situation that is bothering you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take a breather. Stress may cause minor health problems or at the very least fatigue. Be careful not to upset the people who can influence your life and your future direction.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Mingle with group of people who are upward and mobile. You should join prestigious clubs or groups that have a cause you believe in and where you will be able to do a little networking.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You are best to keep your thoughts and opinions to yourself. Don't bother trying to present work or ideas today. Take the time to put in the last minute touches. Fine details will make your presentation perfect and irresistible.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You have so much to offer. Put your efforts into creative projects that will dazzle on-lookers. You will be emotional and quick to judge others if you let things bother you.

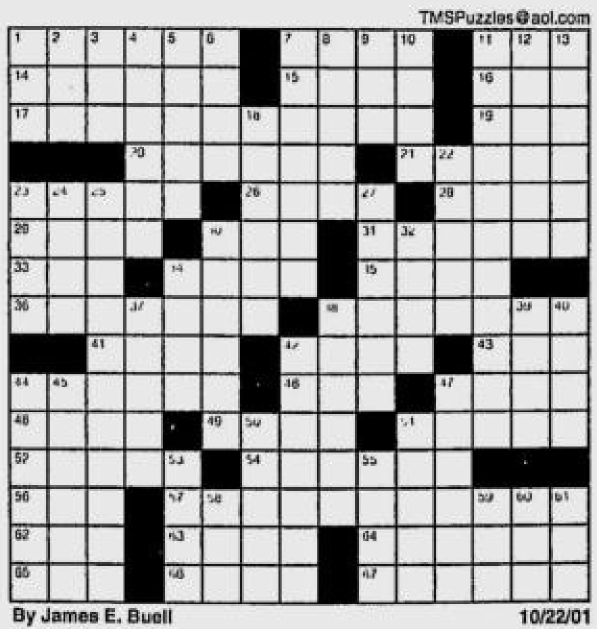
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Use your ingenuity. You can make money if you get involved in real estate deals or other investments that show promise. You can handle just about anything today so get busy clearing up loose ends .

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You're in the mood for a little love and romance. Channel your energy into passionate interludes with that special person in your life. If you're single get out and meet your match.

Birthday Baby: You are a wanderer. You are full of energy, willing to try anything and forever searching for adventure. You love the great outdoors and will protect nature's wonders throughout your life.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL

10/22/01

ACROSS
1 Mrs. Marcos
7 Sidewalk eatery
11 Male turkey
14 Dressler and Osmond
15 A ways off
16 Shade
17 Starting lineup
19 __ not my job!
20 Leash
21 Woman with a book club
23 Something else
26 Atoll barrier
28 Upper hand
29 Thug
30 Hopper
31 Got around
33 Molasses-based liquor
34 Slippery swimmers
35 Ornamental fringe
36 Everlasting
38 Small bouquet
41 Puts into words
42 Closely confined
43 "Norma __"
44 Wealthy contributor
46 They: Fr.
47 Gull relative
48 As to
49 Miller play, "All My __"
51 Pages
52 Turn inside out
54 Sure winner
56 Take a load off
57 Criticize with hindsight
62 Comforting letters
63 Shrinking Asian sea
64 Near the back
65 Volcanic dust
66 Hard to find
67 __ Dan

DOWN
1 Worldwide $ group
2 __ tai cocktail
3 To __ is human
4 Eavesdrop
5 Talk out of
6 Off. underling
7 Banks into the wind
8 Fully in flames
9 Ardent follower
10 Therefore
11 Grueling interrogation
12 Power break
13 Engaged, as gears
18 Tickle pink
22 Dove's goal
23 Fairy-tale monster
24 Track tipster
25 Finish-line approach
27 Big-time criminals
30 Brutes
32 Far-reaching
34 Celtic New Age artist
37 Track competitor
38 Ozzie or Harriet
39 "Modern Maturity" org.
40 Hankerings
42 Tiny puncture
44 Gala celebration
45 Blacksmiths' blocks
47 Faculty status
50 Felix's sloppy roommate
51 Narrow-minded person
53 Bygone Russian ruler
55 Probabilities
58 Hurler's stat
59 Linguistic suffix
60 "My Gal __"
61 Crafty

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

F	A	S	C	I	S	M	■	S	H	E	L	L	E	D
A	S	T	A	R	T	E	■	M	O	L	I	E	R	E
S	T	E	W	A	R	T	■	I	N	S	T	O	R	E
T	A	P	■	S	U	E	■	T	O	E	■	N	A	P
O	T	I	S	■	M	O	V	E	R	■	F	I	N	E
N	I	N	E	S	■	R	O	S	A	L	I	N	D	S
E	C	S	T	A	T	I	C	■	B	A	R	E	S	T
■	■	■	■	R	E	C	A	L	L	S	■	■	■	■
M	A	N	A	G	E	■	B	A	Y	S	T	A	T	E
E	V	I	D	E	N	T	L	Y	■	O	A	T	H	S
R	A	C	E	■	S	H	E	E	R	■	D	I	E	T
I	R	K	■	H	I	E	■	T	E	L	■	S	E	A
T	I	E	D	Y	E	S	■	T	E	A	R	S	A	T
E	C	L	I	P	S	E	■	E	S	P	O	U	S	E
D	E	S	P	O	T	S	■	S	E	P	T	E	T	S

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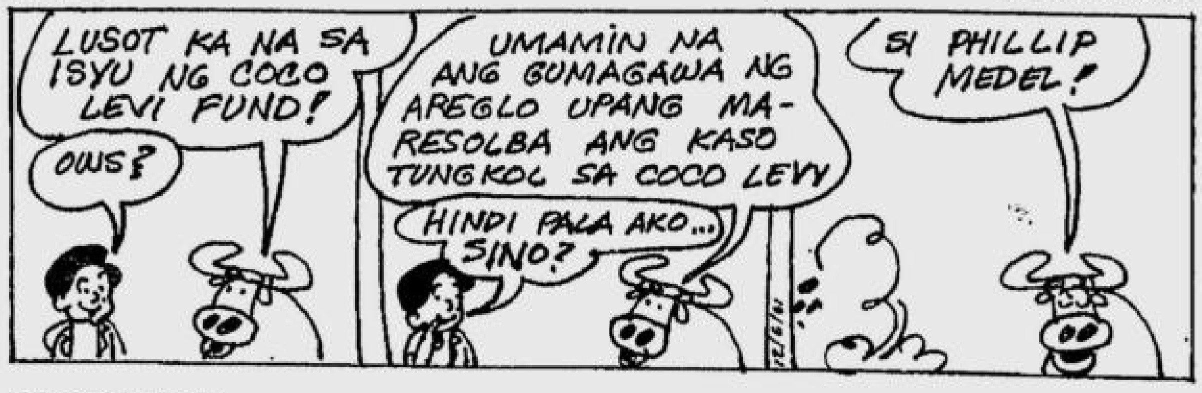
10/22/01

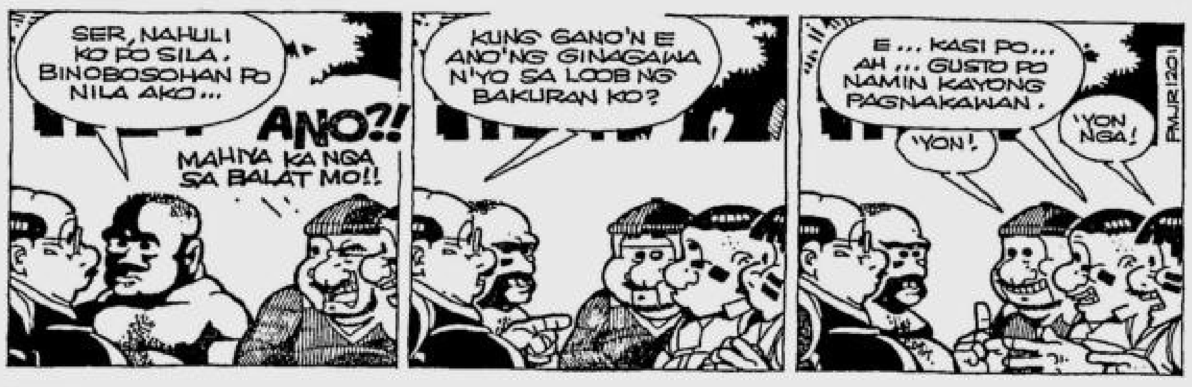
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


LUSOT KA NA SA ISYU NG COCO LEVI FUND!
OWS?
UMAMIN NA ANG GUMAGAWA NG AREGLO UPANG MARESOLBA ANG KASO TUNGKOL SA COCO LEVY
HINDI PALA AKO... SINO?
SI PHILLIP MEDEL!

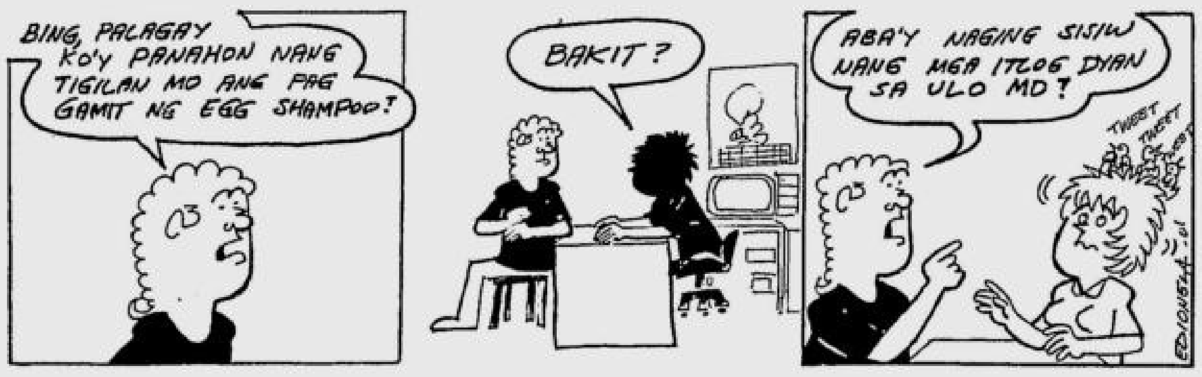
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SER, NAHULI KO PO SILA. BINOBOSOHAN PO NILA AKO...
ANO?!
MAHIYA KA NGA SA BALAT MO!!
KUNG GANO'N E ANO'NG GINAGAWA N'YO SA LOOB NG BAKURAN KO?
E... KASI PO... AH... GUSTO PO NAMIN KAYONG PAGNAKAWAN.
'YON!
'YON NGA!
PMJR1201

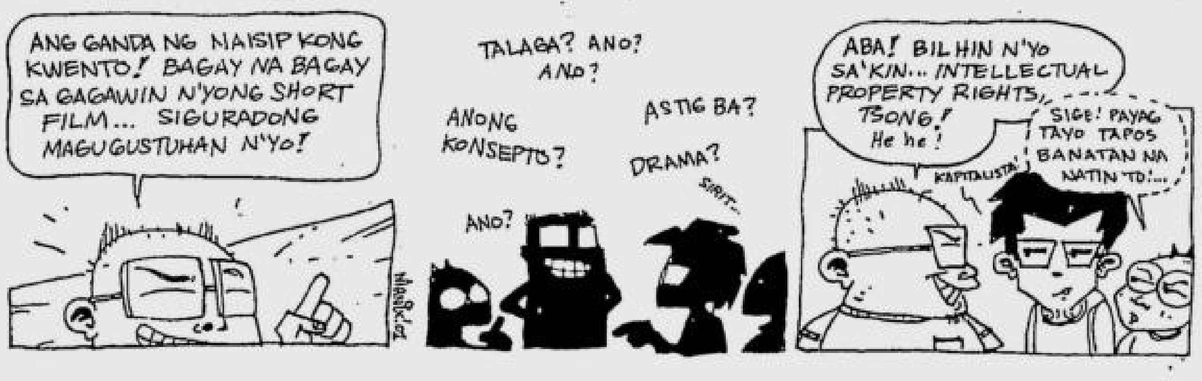
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


BING, PALAGAY KO'Y PANAHON NANG TIGILAN MO ANG PAG GAMIT NG EGG SHAMPOO?
BAKIT?
ABA'Y NAGING SISIW NANG MGA ITLOG DYAN SA ULO MO?
TWEET TWEET

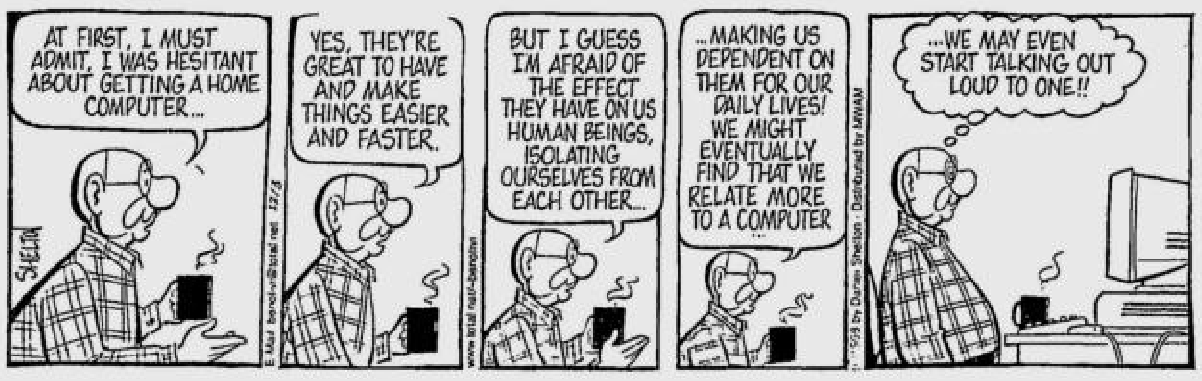
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


ANG GANDA NG NAISIP KONG KWENTO! BAGAY NA BAGAY SA GAGAWIN N'YONG SHORT FILM... SIGURADONG MAGUGUSTUHAN N'YO!
TALAGA? ANO?
ANO?
ANONG KONSEPTO?
ASTIG BA?
DRAMA?
ANO?
SIRIT...
ABA! BILHIN N'YO SA'KIN... INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS, TSONG! He he!
KAPITALISTA!
SIGE! PAYAG TAYO TAPOS BANATAN NA NATIN 'TO!...

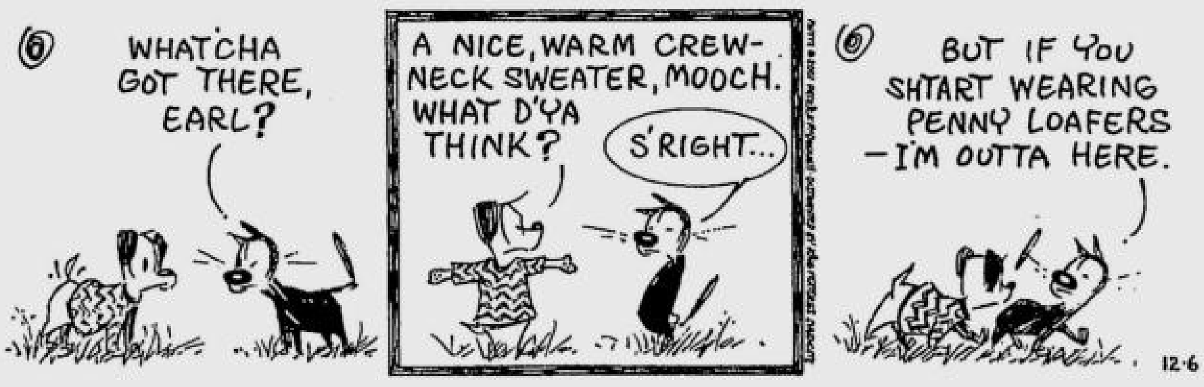
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


AT FIRST, I MUST ADMIT, I WAS HESITANT ABOUT GETTING A HOME COMPUTER...
YES, THEY'RE GREAT TO HAVE AND MAKE THINGS EASIER AND FASTER.
BUT I GUESS I'M AFRAID OF THE EFFECT THEY HAVE ON US HUMAN BEINGS, ISOLATING OURSELVES FROM EACH OTHER...
...MAKING US DEPENDENT ON THEM FOR OUR DAILY LIVES! WE MIGHT EVENTUALLY FIND THAT WE RELATE MORE TO A COMPUTER...
...WE MAY EVEN START TALKING OUT LOUD TO ONE!!

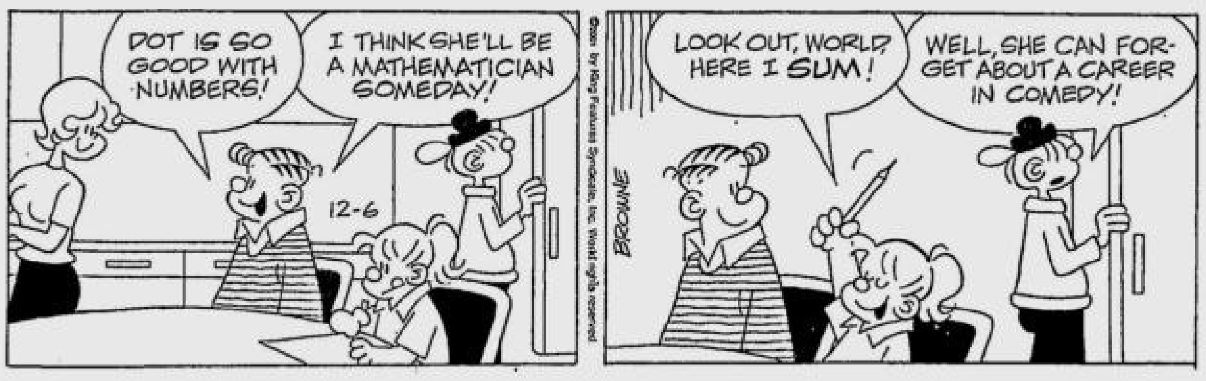
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHATCHA GOT THERE, EARL?
A NICE, WARM CREW-NECK SWEATER, MOOCH. WHAT D'YA THINK?
S'RIGHT...
BUT IF YOU SHTART WEARING PENNY LOAFERS —I'M OUTTA HERE.
12·6

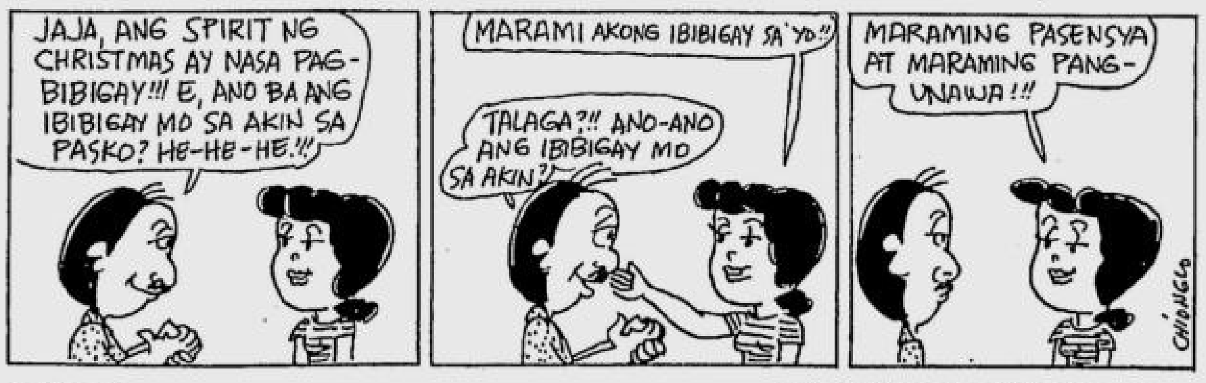
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


DOT IS SO GOOD WITH NUMBERS!
I THINK SHE'LL BE A MATHEMATICIAN SOMEDAY!
12-6
LOOK OUT, WORLD! HERE I SUM!
WELL, SHE CAN FORGET ABOUT A CAREER IN COMEDY!

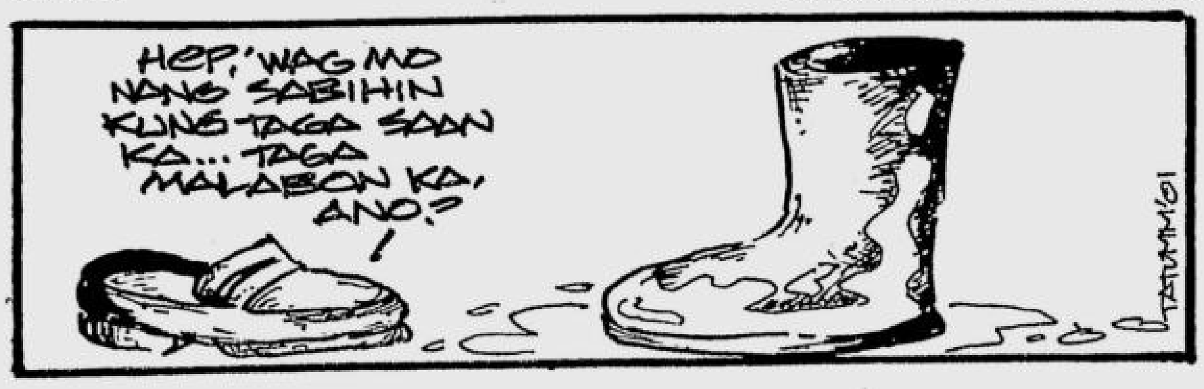
LOVEKNOTS

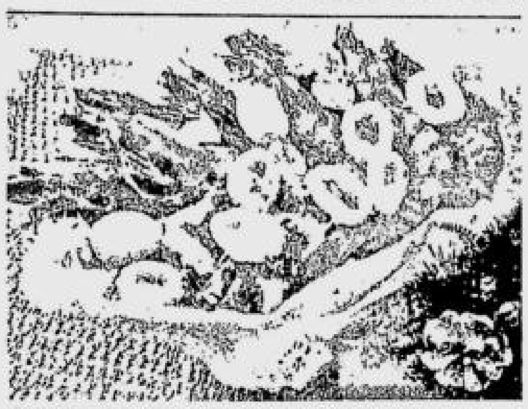
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JAJA, ANG SPIRIT NG CHRISTMAS AY NASA PAGBIBIGAY!!! E, ANO BA ANG IBIBIGAY MO SA AKIN SA PASKO? HE-HE-HE.!!
MARAMI AKONG IBIBIGAY SA 'YO!!
TALAGA?!! ANO-ANO ANG IBIBIGAY MO SA AKIN?
MARAMING PASENSYA AT MARAMING PANG-UNAWA!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


HEP, 'WAG MO NANG SABIHIN KUNG TAGA SAAN KA... TAGA MALABON KA, ANO?
TATUM'01



SEAFOOD Fiesta

Do-it-yourself Christmas feast

AS early as now, preparations for the holidays should be in the works to prevent cramming and last-minute panic-buying. Here are some new ideas from Maya to help you put together a different *noche buena* fare to please family and friends.

Seafood Fiesta

10 pc large shrimps
500 g squid
10 pc fish balls
1pc *tokwa*
250 g Gold Medal All-Purpose flour
¼ tsp salt
1 tsp pepper
2 tsp curry powder
2 c cooking oil
1 pc eggs

Wash and clean shrimp and squid. Cut squid into rings. Dice *tokwa*; set aside. Combine Gold Medal All-Purpose flour, salt, pepper and curry powder to make seasoned flour. Place the seasoned flour inside a plastic bag. Beat one egg and dip the squid rings and shrimp. Put in bag with the seasoned flour and shake until evenly coated. Deep-fry until golden brown. Serves 8-10.

Calzone à la Maya

250 g chicken breast
2 tbsp cream of pork and mushroom
1 c water
1 small grated red bell pepper
1 small grated green bell pepper
Pepper and salt to taste
1 200-g box Maya Hotcake Mix
1 egg
½ c water

Boil chicken breast in water with cream and pork mushroom soup until tender. Cool and flake the chicken. Add the bell peppers. Put some sauce obtained from boiling to thicken the mixture. Add pepper and salt to taste; set aside. Prepare the hotcake mix as directed on the box. Pour ¼ c of the hotcake mixture on Teflon pan. When bubbles appear, place 1 tbsp of chicken mixture on one side of the hotcake. Fold into half sealing the edges. Turn other side until golden brown. Best served with white sauce. Serves 4-6.

Post-contest cookbook

THE CREATIVE Cooking with Kikkoman contest, which was held last year, challenged both professional and amateur Pinoy cooks nationwide to come up with winning recipes using Kikkoman products. Thanks to Kikkoman Pte. Ltd., Sysu International Inc. and Anvil Publishing Inc., the over 60 recipes from the contest have been compiled into a new cookbook called "Creative Cooking."

The book is a tribute to all those who participated in the contest and aims to share with cooking enthusiasts the many creative and tasteful ways of cooking with a favorite Filipino condiment. It will be launched tonight at 6 at Powerbooks, Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road), Makati City.

You think . . .

(From page E4)

amounts of veal kidney will stimulate your desire to solve polynomial equations, is simply that in order to be a well-rounded (in personality) person, you should be as omnivorous as possible. Biochemists, psychologists and nutritionists can meanwhile begin the mapping of the psychoactive properties of foods.

Anyone who can isolate these chemicals should write in to me before the Dec. 16, because this is the day (note the very subtle change of topic) when I shall be launching my book on food, also called "The Mad Tea Party." A lot of the material has been culled from the columns printed in this space, but most of it is original, previously unpublished, or was excised due to reasons of space limitations or pornographic content. I'm inviting all my readers to attend the launch of the book on Dec. 16 (a Sunday), 4 p.m., at Estilo (on the second floor of the building which houses Brother's Burger at Rockwell, beside Emphasis Salon), where there shall be a mad tea party and book signing.

The price of the book will, of course, be less than the retail price at bookstores; and anyone who comes wearing (not clutching) a hat will get a further 10-percent reduction (one discount per hat; baseball caps, inverted pantyhose and hastily folded napkins do not count). Margarita Fores and I are working on a tea-time menu, which may or may not have psychoactive content, but anyone who cooks or bakes is welcome to come bearing gifts and propaganda material (as long as you provide your own disposable plates and utensils). Boors, food puritans, wine snobs and those who will claim to buy the book "some other time" are not welcome; but anyone who loves food, laughter and madness is invited to join the revelry.

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You think what you eat

THE MAD TEA PARTY

Clinton Palanca

Vegetarians have certain traits in common; there's a certain identifiable quality to people who love to eat greasy foods

THE AWFUL horror of holiday season traffic is upon us now, exacerbated by village security guards who are suddenly on a witch-hunt for forged stickers, traffic policemen and MMDA enforcers who wander off into the shade, lean back and watch the snarled deadlock at the intersection as though it were a fascinating spectator sport, and taxi drivers who stop and interview each group on the pavement before turning them down (the cabbie's equivalent of being a tease). So more and more, in order to get things down, I've had to work at home using the Internet, fax machine and electric telephone, which has always been, for me, a frustrating method of trying to accomplish things. I've spent hours being put on hold, talking to Weng who is trying to find Arlene who is on coffee break, and being told to leave my name and number and they'll get back to me. They never do, like those girls who say "I'll give you a call."

The materials I need for my current project, which is an attempt to organize these columns into a coherent book and have it printed, have executed a Houdini act and escaped from the study, where I attempted to corral them, and insidiously crept into the living room and bedroom, where they are no doubt hatching their young. A recent visitor glanced about my bedroom in a state of mild shock. "I don't suppose this reflects the state of your mind?" he asked.

Strangely enough, it probably does, although I suffer from what is known as obsessive-compulsive disorder. I once asked a friend of mine why she didn't cook, and she answered: "Because I have to keep washing my hands." I knew what she meant. When I cook alone, I am at the sink every five minutes, soaping and scrubbing my hands. I also cut my tomatoes into meticulously regular wedges, and, after cutting the potatoes, discard the odd bits that aren't symmetrical.

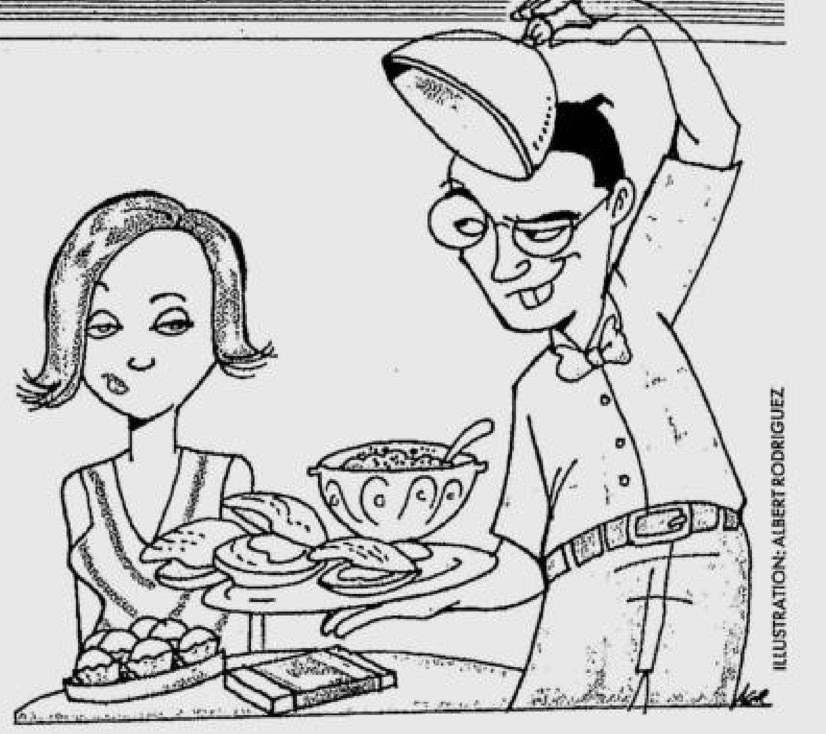


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Obsessing

In popular parlance, to be obsessive-compulsive (or "OC") is to be neat, orderly and meticulous, to the point of having a stick up your ass (come to think of it, a lot of gay people I know are neat, orderly and meticulous). In the stricter psychological sense, obsessive-compulsive behavior means precisely what the words literally signify: first you obsess about something, then you find yourself having a compulsion to do something about it. The most common example that illustrates this perfectly is the sudden fear that one might have left the gas on or the door unlocked. You toss and turn in bed, telling yourself that you've checked it already; meanwhile, the compulsive part of you is urging you to go and take one look, and then you'll be able to relax and go to sleep.

There are other manifestations of this behavior; almost everyone I know has a little quirk that they "have to" indulge, and it's usually so trivial that it's not worth trying to cure. I'm uncomfortable with the word "disorder," but when the behavior begins to affect your life, then it really must be shifted to the category of "there's something wrong with me." At its height, my own personal brush with this illness was that it took me nearly two hours to go to bed every night, because I had to check if all the doors were bolted, the alarm was set, the curtains were drawn, the water taps were tightly shut, the toilet wasn't overflowing, the gas stove burners were all shut, the telephone was on the hook; there were many more, and sometimes I would find myself checking something that I had just checked five minutes ago.

The reason I can speak so candidly and with such assurance that it is a mental "condition" is that when I went on SSRI medication, the behavior disappeared almost completely. This obviously has frightening ramifications; I, like most people of my generation, had been raised by parents and studied at schools that are firmly in the grip of body/mind dualism. In other words, the mind (vaguely equated with the brain on one side and the "soul" on the other) is carried about by a body which is in charge of getting it from one side of the room to the other, typing out its thoughts, and so on. Sometimes, the body (like a badly trained dog) wants certain things; it will signal these needs by sending out signals to the mind that it needs food, needs to pee, or wants to have sex with the woman who just walked past. But, as we have always been told, "the body must not rule the mind," and our conscious brain tells the body to sit still, hide that bulge in your pants with a magazine, and then go home and have a cold shower.

This is why the idea that the mind is part of the body, and can be treated using medications the same way one would treat a problem with the liver or a blister on one's foot, is so difficult to accept; and thus the furor over Prozac and its variants. But if you look carefully, the pre-modern (before a purely rational mind was glorified) view of the mind as part of the body has never been completely extinct. A spa massage "relaxes the body and soothes the mind," the advertisements say, but if the mind were like a computer controlling a machine, then pampering the machine with soothing rhythmic strokes with an optional blow job "extra" should not have any bearing on the CPU.

Prozac deals mainly with a pacticular set of brain chemicals (SSRI stands for Selective Seratonin Reuptake Inhibitor), but as Hannibal Lecter could tell you, the brain has a lot of other functions; and if we accept the idea that what we ingest can have a bearing on the mind, then we are opening ourselves to a whole new field of theoretical and practical possibilities. We all know that sugar makes you hyperactive, coffee makes you alert, and quiche diminishes your masculinity. Supposedly "aphrodisiac" foods, such as oysters, caviar and chocolate, usually have their sexually stimulating properties explained in terms of imagination: the raw oyster reminds us of the look, texture and smell (sometimes) of a vagina revved up and ready for action; caviar, as a great mass of ovaries, is equated with fertility; chocolate, meanwhile, has already received legitimization as a food that makes you happy not just because it comes in nice boxes and tastes good, but because it affects the brain chemistry.

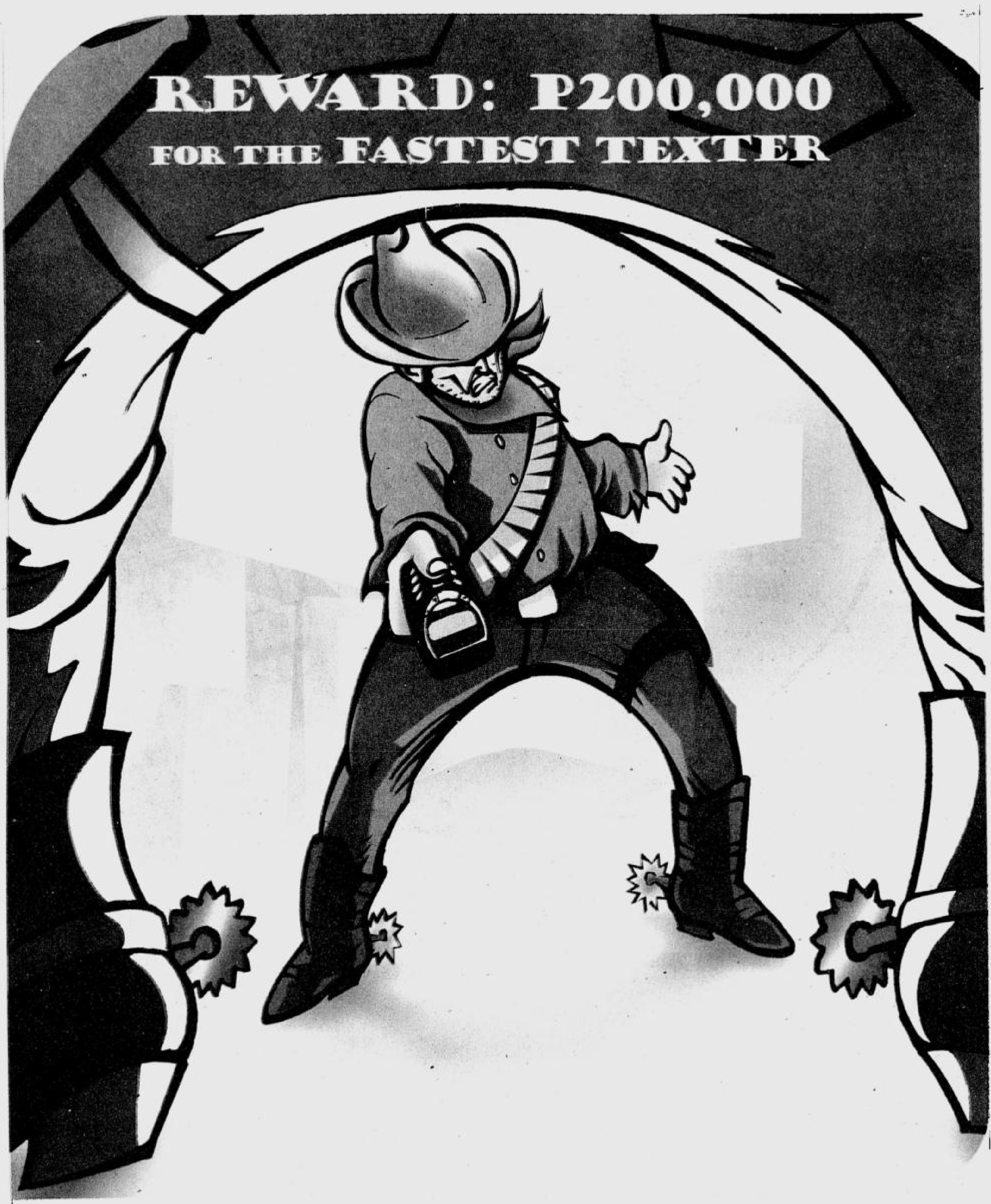
If we carry this further, then careful research just might be able to map out more specific and subtle connections between what we eat and the way we think. I like having dairy products before I work: I always thought it was because it kept my stomach tranquil so that I could concentrate on my prose: but what if milk and cheese have something to do with long sentences, an abuse of semicolons, and a predilection for the passive voice? If Michelangelo had been kept on a diet of Marmite sandwiches and weak tea with cream while he worked, would the frescoes of the Vatican bear a certain vapid likeness to the poetry of Philip Larkin? If Prozac can make me stop going off to check on the gas, perhaps in the future housewives will be able to feed their husbands a certain combination of chicken, rice and sauce that will make them leap up with a raging desire to fix all the leaking faucets and change the light bulbs? Or, more importantly, are there foods that will make women suddenly develop a nymphomaniac fixation for food columnists with poor physiques?

Yin and yang

The Chinese already have categorized foods in terms of yin (cold) and yang (hot): cucumbers, radish, and pears are examples of "yin" foods; crabs, ginger, venison are extremely "yang." One's thermal state is believed to be the reason behind insomnia, constipation, dermatological problems and so on; anyone who has read the English translations of Chinese medicine boxes knows how mystifyingly encompassing the "indications" seem to be. Meanwhile, those who observe human behavior might have noticed that vegetarians have certain traits in common, or that there's a certain identifiable quality to people who love to eat greasy foods, or that junk-food lovers are prone to irritability. Papaya is known to decrease the sex drive.

Of course, we have to take into account the possibility that these people's personalities led them to the preference of these foods, rather than the other way around; or that it's a mutually re-inforcing cycle of personality and behavioral choices and taste preferences. My advice, until they can prove that eating vast

YOU/p.E3



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3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th runners-up: P5,000 cash plus a Nokia 3310
Non-winning finalists will receive P3,000 cash plus Nokia gift packs.

Registration forms will be available from Nov. 17 to Dec. 8, 2001. To qualify, you must own any Nokia mobile phone except models with QWERTY keyboard (Nokia 9000, 9110, 9210 and 5510). Present one valid ID with picture & signature & your completed registration form at any of the 4 elimination round game sites: Nov. 22, Glorietta Activity Center; Nov. 24 & 25, Alabang Town Center Town Plaza; Dec. 1 & 2, Fiesta Carnival, Araneta Center; and Dec. 8 & 9, The Strip, Katipunan. The semi-final and championship rounds will be on Dec. 15 & 16 respectively, Robinson's Place Faura Atrium. Promo runs from Nov. 23 to Dec. 16, 2001, for more information, please call (02) 886-1234 or (02) 894-0424.

Promo valid in Metro Manila only. See flyers for details.

Join The Nokia Speed Text Challenge!®

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3906, Series of 2001